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Why London leads the fashion field
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Monkey business in hospitals

Baboon blood and hearts for humans
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13 PAGES OF SPORT
Match of the year

Cantona of Man Utd and Ginola of Newcastle clash tonight
Preview, PAGE 21

Peace process hangs by thread after 19 die in suicide attack on rush-hour bus

Israelis declare war on bombers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Middle East peace process hung by a thread last night after the third Islamic suicide attack within a week claimed at least 19 more lives and Shimon Peres, Israel's embattled Labour Prime Minister, declared "total war" against Hamas, the group which planted a bomb on a crowded rush-hour bus.

Mr Peres is now in serious danger of losing the May 29 election to the right-wing Likud, which is demanding much harsher action against the Palestinians. Mr Peres announced a security package as angry crowds roamed streets near the site of the atrocity calling for his assassination and praising Yigal Amir, the Jew who murdered Yitzhak Rabin, his predecessor.

Pressure on the 72-year-old Labour leader to abandon Mr Rabin's peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, now claimed to have cost more than 150 Jewish lives, came from many sides. President Weizman, the popular but mainly ceremonial

head of state, called for an immediate halt to the peace talks. "We are at war," he said as a new round of harrowing funerals began. "We cannot go on like this."

Although the explosion bore all the hallmarks of previous attacks, it had a much greater psychological impact because it was on the same bus route and at almost the identical time that a suicide bomber struck last Sunday, killing himself and 24 others.

In more than eight years covering events in Israel, I have never seen anger scenes like those witnessed all day in the centre of Jerusalem's commercial heartland. Thousands of right-wing Jews demanding revenge attacks scuffled with police. "This is the Peres dictatorship," one black-hatted man shouted.

"Six million Jews died in the Holocaust and we are left being run by shits like Peres who only care in to Palestinian demands," another said.

The Peres security package was met with derision by many citizens at the site of the



A police officer and a paramedic run from the bomb-shattered bus in the aftermath of yesterday's suicide attack in central Jerusalem

blast. Windows were shattered over a wide area, walls were charred and the body of a commuter could be seen hanging through what had been the window of a number 18 bus.

The only thing Peres could have said to satisfy me was 'I resign,'" said Peretz Gabai, 43, an electrician. "It is time to give someone else a chance to run the country. This is not how you fight a war."

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud leader, has wiped out

Mr Peres's comfortable IS point opinion poll lead as a result of the three terrorist attacks in the past week.

But at a nationally televised news conference, the Prime Minister brushed aside questions about the electoral implications of the attack. His new security package included putting Jerusalem on a war footing, with the drafting in of thousands of extra security personnel, destroying the homes of the families of sui-

cide bombers, creating an 800-strong unit of security guards for buses and erecting a fence to separate Israel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr Peres stopped short of announcing that Israeli troops would be sent on limited missions to Gaza and the six West Bank towns they have evacuated. But Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, the Army Chief of Staff, said that if Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion, did not clamp down on terrorist groups in Gaza "someone else will have to".

Mr Arafat, whose own survival as Palestinian leader is linked to Mr Peres's resolution in pursuing the peace accord signed in September 1993, announced that he was agreeing to Israeli demands to outlaw the military wings of Hamas and other groups in the self-rule areas. He also sent six armoured personnel carriers on to the streets of

Gaza. But Israelis remain deeply cynical about Mr Arafat's readiness to take on Hamas in a confrontation that could lead to a Palestinian civil war.

A fresh attack had been expected since the Israeli Government last week rejected a Hamas offer of a conditional ceasefire which included a demand for the release of all Hamas prisoners.

Revenge demand, page 9

Unionist parties boycott talks on elections

By NICHOLAS WATT AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

INTENSIVE talks aimed at finding a political settlement in Northern Ireland will begin in Belfast today without two of the main parties, who announced a boycott of the meetings last night.

The Ulster Unionists and Democratic Unionists insisted that they would not attend meetings at the conference centre at Stormont because the talks suggested an unacceptable form of joint authority by London and Dublin over Northern Ireland.

The boycott came as the search for peace was hindered by claims from a loyalist splinter group that it had abandoned the ceasefire. The unnamed group, which is believed to include members of the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association, said it would target republicans because of the renewed IRA campaign. In a statement to the Belfast *Sunday Life* newspaper, a hooded gunman said: "If the IRA desires a war, it will not be a one-sided one."

The warning came after Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, sent out invitations to eight political parties in Northern Ireland to attend today's talks which he will host jointly with Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister. Sinn Fein has not been invited because of a ban on ministerial contacts with it following the collapse of the ceasefire. Instead, it has been told it must request

Continued on page 2, col 8

More turn to The Times

Readership of *The Times* is rising sharply at the same time as that of the *Daily Telegraph* is falling, according to the latest figures from the National Readership Survey.

While the number of *Times* readers rose by 4.5 per cent compared to the same period last year (August to January), the *Daily Telegraph* lost 6.2 per cent of its readers, a loss of 166,000.

The Times was the only quality daily newspaper to rise in readership. Growth of *The Times* was particularly strong (up 10.1 per cent) among those aged under 45.

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Fr 4.00; Tunisia Dir 2.200; USA
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Tory and Labour MPs call for debate on monarchy

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

CROSS-PARTY pressure for a national debate on the future of the monarchy grew yesterday as Labour MPs voiced fresh criticism of the Prince of Wales and the Royal Family.

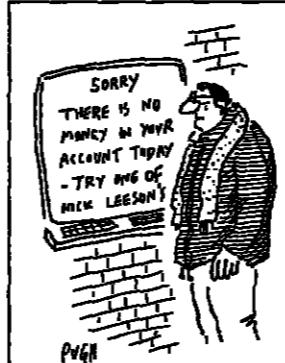
Amid growing resentment on the Labour benches over the way Tony Blair forced Ron Davies, the Shadow Welsh Secretary, to apologise for his critical remarks about the Prince, a former Tory minister urged the Royal Family to stop demeaning it.

George Warden, outgoing Tory MP for Buckingham, called on Parliament to present Buckingham Palace with a list of grievances about the Royal Family in the style of the *Grand Remonstrance* made to Charles I in 1641.

"I think it would be very nice – in an ideal world – if the Government and Opposition could get together and send a message from the House of Commons to the Royal Family – a *Grand* Remonstrance," he said.

As Labour MPs insisted that they should be free to discuss the issue, close advisers to the Labour leader said Mr Blair did not want to stifle debate. Mr Davies, they said, had apologised for his intemperate language.

Quiet weekend, page 3
Letters, page 17



Leeson faces jail inquiry over cash

Nick Leeson, the rogue trader who was blamed for the collapse of Barings Bank, is to be interviewed by Singapore inspectors in his Changi prison cell this week after claims on him that he has hidden away up to £23 million in secret bank accounts in three German cities

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Landslide win

John Howard's Liberal-National coalition won a landslide victory over Labor in the Australian general election. Howard's majority is the biggest in 21 years... Pages 10, 17

Dial a Dalek to find out about leaves on the line

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND JONATHAN PRYNN

BRITISH RAIL'S notorious inability to tell customers accurately when its trains will run may be overcome by a voice-activated computer so advanced that it can understand not only Japanese but Geordie.

The computer program, at the moment known as Arise (Automatic Railway Information Systems for Europe), is being developed jointly with the national railways of France, Germany and Holland. To date it has cost £400,000, half contributed by the European Union.

Robert Dunbar, BR's business development manager, said the program, still in the early stages of development, could already recognise the names of 300 stations spoken in a wide variety of regional accents, with 80 per cent accuracy. Before it could be used, however, it would have to learn 2,500 station names and be 95 per cent accurate. It was hoped it would eventually learn to recognise several for-

ign languages and reply appropriately.

"In principle," he said, "it takes the sounds it receives and chops them into little bits, matching them against a library of sounds. At the moment it is finding it far harder to understand women than men."

The hardest part of the project, Mr Dunbar admitted, would be programming callers to stick to a "script" that the computer recognises. Thus, a traveller wishing to go to Birmingham by way of Beachy Head and demanding to know why there is a buffer car only as far as Brighton, and why there is an hour's wait for a connection at Bexhill, is likely to send the machine into a severe and silent huff.

"Ideally, customers would not be able to tell if they are dealing with a human or a machine," Mr Dunbar said. Much like now, really.

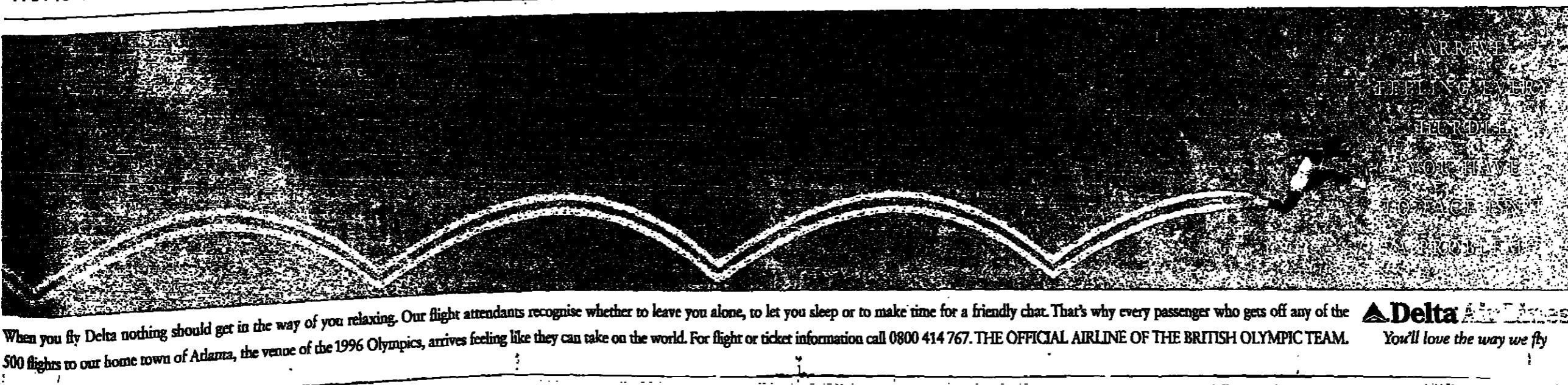
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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

PLAY TO WIN
Check how your players are performing in our cash-prize Interactive Team Football game

PLUS: Libby Purves and Anatole Kaletsky, Commentator of the Year

WEDNESDAY

INTERNET
Underwater weather forecasting
In our weekly guide to new technology

PLUS: Nigella Lawson, Simon Jenkins and Alan Coren

THURSDAY

FILMS OF THE WEEK
Meg Ryan in the film of Rose Tremain's *Restoration*

PLUS: Health and the Books pages

FRIDAY

POP
Alan Jackson meets Holly Johnson, pop artist

PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview and the Education page

SATURDAY

THE 100 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN IN THE WORLD
Part 2, in the Magazine

PLUS: Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY WEEKDAY: COLLECT OUR TOKENS TO TAKE OUT A FREE BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO

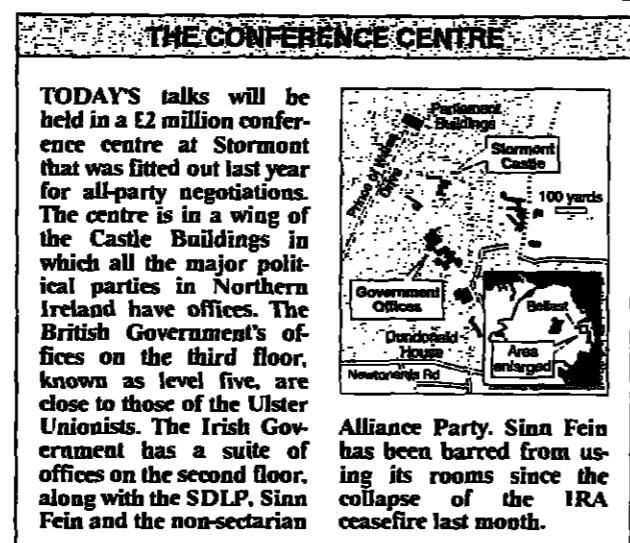
The Republican movement's most influential members hold sway over Major's latest initiative

Three shadowy figures who hold the key to lasting peace

By MICHAEL EVANS AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE success or failure of John Major's latest initiative to bring permanent peace to Northern Ireland will depend on a small group of the most influential members of the republican movement.

They include Gerard Kelly, a convicted bomber and part of the team negotiating with British government representatives; Pat Doherty, Sinn Fein vice-president; and Kevin McKenna, jailed in the past for being a member of the IRA. Pat Doherty, 50, played a prominent role in the discussions that led to the announcement of a ceasefire in August 1994. He studied in Liverpool for the priesthood but at the age of 17 decided it was the wrong vocation. He is now one of Sinn Fein's most high-profile spokesmen, who headed his party's delegation at the Irish Government's national



forum for peace and reconciliation. He is standing in the forthcoming parliamentary by-election in Co Donegal. Kevin McKenna, 50, was jailed three times in the Irish

Court ruling. He is reported to be in bad health. Gerard Kelly, 41, is seen as one of the most powerful figures, because of his terrorist background, his time in jail and his position as part of the negotiating team. He was given two life sentences in 1973 for his part in the Old Bailey and Scotland Yard bombs which killed one and injured 250. He joined 37 other IRA prisoners in a breakout from the Maze prison in Belfast in 1983. Three years later he was arrested by Dutch police and extradited to Northern Ireland but only after the Dutch authorities insisted on having his double life sentences waived. He was jailed for five years for falsely imprisoning prison officers but was released in 1989 for good behaviour after serving only half his sentence. He joined Mr McGuinness in secret negotiations with the British Government between 1990 and 1993.

Republic for membership of the IRA. He was involved in an IRA hunger strike campaign at Portlaoise prison in 1975 and was subsequently freed from jail after a High



Gunmen's threats discounted

By NICHOLAS WATT

LOYALIST politicians insisted yesterday that Protestant paramilitary leaders would maintain their ceasefire despite threats from a splinter group to break the truce.

Billy Hutchinson, of the Progressive Unionist Party, the political wing of the Ulster Volunteer Force, said the paramilitaries were prepared to await the outcome of the

Anglo-Irish initiative before deciding their next move. But he issued a warning that continuing IRA violence could send Northern Ireland back "into the abyss".

His comments came after a hooded gunman told a Belfast newspaper that a new loyalist terrorist group had abandoned the ceasefire and would target republicans. In a statement read out to a reporter from *Sunday Life*, the gunman claimed that the IRA had declared war on the British people.

It was unclear yesterday whether the new group, which is believed to include members of the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association, will present a serious challenge to the loyalist leadership. However, the statement did echo fears that have been voiced by mainstream loyalists in recent weeks.

Boycott

Continued from page 1
meetings with government officials.

The talks, which were described as "intensive multi-lateral consultations" in last Wednesday's Anglo-Irish communiqué, are designed to hammer out an agreement on elections in Northern Ireland and will last until next Wednesday.

If the parties are unable to reach agreement, Britain will introduce its own proposals for elections in legislation.

However, John Major could face severe disruption over this issue in the Commons as Tory MPs raise fears about concessions made to the IRA. Senior Conservatives said yesterday that they wanted more pressure applied for paramilitary weapons to be destroyed.

Ministers will attempt to rush through a Bill next month to enable elections to take place in late May. But one senior unionist said last night: "The timetable is very tight... if ministers refuse to accept proposals that have the support of most political parties, we would not be doing our job if we did not use whatever means necessary to block the Bill."

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Britons hope for end to harassment

Capitulation by French promises end to ski wars

By OLIVER AUGUST
AND JOANNA BALE



Ross said French stand had maintained quality

FRENCH ski instructors, who for years have jealously guarded the right to teach skiing in their country, have finally accepted an order from the European Union to give foreign rivals equal rights on the slopes. British instructors hope the move will end years of simmering hostility and threats of violence and imprisonment.

British instructors were barred from French ski slopes because foreign qualifications, including the top grades awarded by the British Association of Ski Instructors, were not recognised.

British instructors could be chased off the piste by members of the Ecole du Ski Français. In 1990, when poor snowfalls meant that up to 70 per cent of French instructors were unemployed, 50 British instructors were arrested and warned off or arrested and warned off or arrested and given illegal instruction.

The French were finally forced to surrender after threats that further opposition to the equal rights rules would result in legal action in the European Court of Justice. The French Government last week agreed to accept instructor certificates obtained outside France.

Chantal de Bourmont, of the French representation in Brussels, said: "We now accept that you don't have to have a French certificate to teach skiing in France. The decree, which is making life

blows on the slopes. Mr Monney, one of the handful of Britons who hold a French diploma, said he was legally teaching a group of English children at Morzine when a group of French instructors threatened to punch them all the way back to the United Kingdom".

The Ecole du Ski in Meribel has been known to send out search parties for British, German, Swiss and Austrian instructors "teaching 'illegally'. In the afternoon, some Ecole instructors would scour the slopes and grab a ski or pole of foreign instructors, sending them sliding helplessly down the piste.

"They are not just protecting their business," said Tom Kazanak, who works in a Meribel hotel and earns pocket money by teaching English tourists. "Chasing us is a sport. After a morning of teaching beginners, they are so frustrated and aggressive they just bomb down the slopes and kick some of our equipment."

Even instructors with a full British certificate had to complete a slalom course in times close to those of Olympic skiers before being allowed to teach. The test was seen as a device to keep the number of foreign instructors down: nearly 90 per cent failed.

The legal battle between instructors from the Ecole du Ski and their foreign counterparts began six years ago when Mr Monney complained to the EU. Since then instructors have not only exchanged solicitors' letters but also

difficult for foreign instructors, is being overturned."

The news was welcomed by the British skiing community. Hugh Monney, an instructor who has campaigned for a rule change since 1990, said: "The unions on the French slopes have held these changes up for years."

Even instructors with a full British certificate had to complete a slalom course in times close to those of Olympic skiers before being allowed to teach. The test was seen as a device to keep the number of foreign instructors down: nearly 90 per cent failed.

The legal battle between instructors from the Ecole du Ski and their foreign counterparts began six years ago when Mr Monney complained to the EU. Since then instructors have not only exchanged solicitors' letters but also

Wife's fear over fatwa sought by husband

By JOANNA BALE

A BRITISH mother has promised to defy a fatwa sought by her estranged Egyptian husband to stop her reclaiming custody of their children. Emma Habeeb, 24, has been in fear for her life for three weeks after a Muslim court issued the edict on behalf of Mohammed Habeeb.

Mr Habeeb, a member of El Jihad, a fundamentalist Islamic group, kidnapped their two small sons from their home in Leeds four weeks ago. He broke a British court order forbidding him from taking the children out of the country and returned to the couple's flat, 50 miles from Cairo.

Mr Habeeb has told his wife that she will be killed if she sets foot in Egypt. He has also threatened his British parents-in-laws if they try to see their grandsons. The police have installed an alarm at Mrs Habeeb's home in case anyone tries to carry out the fatwa.

Mrs Habeeb said yesterday: "I've spoken to my sons on the phone and they want to come home. I believe the British Government can get my kids back if enough pressure is put on them."

Mr and Mrs Habeeb married eight years ago when he was studying at Leeds University. Mrs Habeeb had converted to Islam before being introduced to Mohammed. They married three weeks later.

The marriage broke up after she told him she would no longer wear the veil required by Islam. She alleges violence.



The clubhouse at St Andrews has come in for criticism

OFT investigates sale of tee times

By JOHN HOPKINS

A DEAL worth £5 million that involves the sale of tee times on the world-famous Old Course at St Andrews is under investigation by the Office of Fair Trading.

The Scottish Incoming Golf Tour Operators' Association claims the terms of the sale of starting times to a London-based firm, Keith Prowse Hospitality, on behalf of an American finance company, are potentially restrictive. Tee times can only be bought as part of travel packages costing up to £900 per person for a two-day visit.

"A complaint has been lodged with us and we are looking into it," an OFT spokesman said. "We are concerned with establishing whether or not this distorts the competition, and if it does, then what do we do about it."

The investigation follows an Inland Revenue inquiry into the financial affairs of the body that administers the golf courses in St Andrews, the Links Trust. The Trust currently enjoys charitable status

for income and corporation tax purposes.

"We have a separate commercial arm known as St Andrews Links Ltd," Peter Mason, Links Trust's external relations manager, said. "St Andrews Links Ltd transfers profits to the parent company. It is a perfectly proper way of doing things. The National Trust does exactly the same. Our understanding is that our deal does not contravene any legislation."

The boom in the popularity of golf prompted the Links Trust to begin a major expenditure programme in 1986. It has spent over £7 million since then on a new golf course, a new practice facility and a £3 million clubhouse.

As well as displeasure among local golfers at the loss of tee times, there has been criticism of the lavishness of the clubhouse. Hoteliers in St Andrews fear golfers will be unable to afford the new package deals and there will be a loss of income to many of the small bed and breakfast hotels that line the town's streets.

Royal couple buzzed by unidentified flying gossip

By ALAN HAMILTON

A BRIEF but merciful weekend lull in the Princess of Wales's public negotiations on her divorce forced yesterday's newspapers into a realm of frantic speculation.

The *News of the World* reported that two RAF Harringays chased an unidentified flying object from the skies above Balmoral, the Queen's Aberdeenshire holiday home, on Wednesday night. Unnamed witnesses said the jets appeared to have engaged in a dogfight with a bright light, which was visible eight miles away in the town of Ballater.

But a flying saucer on Royal Deeside is as nothing compared to the enemy forces said to be buzzing the instantly identifiable Flying Object

currently lying low in Kensington Palace while her estranged husband breezily skis the pistes of Klosters, where he has been visiting an exhibition of his own paintings at a local bank.

The *Sunday Express* reported that two RAF Harringays chased an unidentified flying object from the skies above Balmoral, the Queen's Aberdeenshire holiday home, on Wednesday night.

For its part, *The Sunday Telegraph*, normally less excitable, claimed that during their private meeting at St James's Palace last week, the Princess suggested to her husband that they should appear together on television to announce their divorce in the same way that they ap-

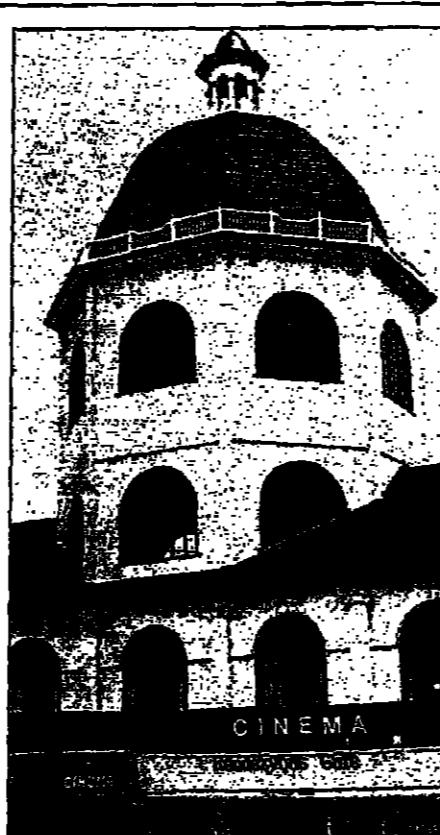
peared together to announce their engagement.

The Prince, hardly surprisingly, is reported to have declined firmly to have anything to do with such an endeavour.

No doubt he had an awful vision of himself and his wife lounging on pastel sofas like Richard and Judy or Anne and Nick, the rival teams of daytime television presenters, while a procession of therapists offered passing and helpful thoughts.

Richard and Judy are married, apparently quite successfully. Anne and Nick are merely a professional pair who work well together. The Prince and Princess are neither.

Buckingham Palace warmly dismissed the stories as speculation.



The Dome is to be turned into a nightclub but Claire Tomkinson, manager of the 75-year-old cinema, hopes that it will be reborn



Last reel for Britain's longest-running cinema

By MARCUS BINNEY

THE Dome in Worthing, claimed to be Britain's longest-running cinema, is to have its historic fittings stripped out to become a nightclub. Worthing Council's decision to sell the Grade 2 listed building, the town's only full-time cinema, has outraged local people, 35,000 of whom signed a petition to save it. The council says that the building is uneconomic to maintain.

The Dome was built in 1911 and fitted out as a 500-seat cinema ten years later. It is one of only a few still using carbon projectors, the original

method of showing films. The auditorium has the character of a music hall, being overlooked by narrow balconies on three sides. The ceiling, studded with domes and cupolas features opulent Edwardian plasterwork.

The Dome was used as a set for the film *Wish You Were Here*, which starred Emily Lloyd. In the entrance is the original wooden ticket kiosk with an Automatique machine with brass top offering tickets at prices ranging from six pence to two shillings. Mia Gordon, the deputy manager said: "It's an absolutely foolproof system and we still use it

when the computer goes down, which it frequently does."

Rob Blann, chairman of The Dome Preservation Trust, says: "The council has sold the cinema for £15,000, the price of a four-bedroomed house. It should be one of the icons of the Sussex coast. The nightclub will involve the removal of the raked floor and all the seating, but this will required listed building consent and we will be objecting very strongly."

In the 1950s the Dome had four projectionists and a winding boy. Today there are only two. One of them, Robert Town, says: "Our Peerless Magnare projectors are the

Rolls-Royces in their field. They're more than 50 years old, in use for six to seven hours, seven days a week, and still project a rock-steady picture."

Richard Gray of the Cinema Theatres' Association said: "This is a place full of atmosphere and history. Worthing already has five nightclubs. It should follow the example of other towns such as Great Yarmouth and Harrogate which have restored their earlier cinemas."

The cinema's prospective owners, the Chapman Group, say they will create a cinema elsewhere in the building.

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Castaway unmoved by radio grilling

By ALAN HAMILTON

IN THE days of its founder, you would never have mistaken the gentility of *Desert Island Discs* for the aggressiveness of the *Today* programme.

Yet Sue Lawley, inheritor of Roy Plomley's chair, yesterday gave Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, a fair old grilling about why he was still a bachelor at the age of 45.

The twice-married Ms Lawley asked him if he was irritated by people constantly asking him about women and marriage. "Not at all," Mr Brown replied. "It just hasn't happened. And it's one of things that I suppose I'm surprised hasn't happened, but it hasn't."

That was not good enough for Ms Lawley, but the tempest of the Church of Scotland minister's son still held.

Like a Welsh terrier with an old sock, Ms Lawley refused to drop the matter. "Do you understand people's curiosity... People want to know whether you're gay or whether there's some flaw in your personality..."

Mr Brown denied Ms Lawley's suggestion that he was a loner (although his chosen luxury item was a machine for playing tennis against himself) and insisted yet again: "It just hasn't happened. I hope it does. It may yet. It probably will do."

Bottomley urges firms to give shares as their trust funds drain away

Lottery grants raise fears of unfinished projects

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY will today urge companies to give shares instead of cash to arts and heritage institutions. The Heritage Secretary's announcement coincides with warnings from business sponsors, charitable foundations and individual patrons of the arts that a new form of donor fatigue is setting in because of the National Lottery.

Under rules laid down by the Government and the bodies that distribute lottery cash to good causes, most organisations receiving the money must obtain contributions from sponsors and charitable donors worth 10-50 per cent of their project costs. Such has been the unforeseen success of the lottery that corporate donors and charities say they will be unable to satisfy the huge and growing demand for private funding.

Colin Tweedy, director general of the Association for British Sponsorship of the Arts, has given a warning that there could be a £1 billion shortfall within four years between lottery grants and the linked amounts from donors. Charity experts are talking of a "nightmare scenario" of a nation dotted with half-furnished lottery-inspired monuments and buildings as the figure seemed realistic.

The success of the lottery has exceeded all expectations, however, and it is raising more than £1 billion a year for good causes, creating a de-



Tweedy: predicts £1bn shortfall in top-up cash

mand for linked donations well in excess of £250 million.

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation, which gives £3 million a year to arts, education and training projects, is one of the charities that believe the requirement for donations linked to lottery grants will have to be dropped. James Cornford, the foundation's director, said: "The amount of money from the lottery dwarfs the sums we have available."

Margaret Hyde, director of the Esme Fairbairn Charitable Trust, said: "I doubt whether anybody in Government has ever properly assessed how much matching funding would be required to support lottery grants."

Mr Tweedy believes that, unless action is taken now, the

traditional sources of linked funding will dry up well before the millennium. Recipients of large lottery grants would be forced to ask American, Japanese, Hong Kong and Korean philanthropists and foundations for their donations. "We could end up in the bizarre situation of asking these people effectively to underwrite the British National Lottery," he said.

The Heritage Department denies that there is a shortage of linked donations, although it concedes that the issue needs monitoring. It points out that private funding can be given "in kind", such as free office space, specialist advice and land. The department said that for every £1 of lottery money awarded to good causes, nearly £1.60 of linked funding had been pledged. But not all of this money had been handed over.

In the meantime, arts bodies are hoping that the Arts Council, the Heritage Memorial Fund and the Millennium Commission, which require 25-50 per cent in linked donations for their bigger grants, will follow the lead of the Sports Council. Next week the council will announce that its requirement that lottery applicants raise 35 per cent of their project costs from private donations will be lowered to 10 per cent for applicants in rural areas. The 10 per cent rule already applies for applicants in inner cities.



Virginia Bottomley wants to encourage companies to donate shares to charitable foundations

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police use CS spray in 'violent dispute'

Police used a CS spray for the first time early yesterday to subdue a man involved in a dispute with a taxi driver. Officers used the new deterrent issued to police in 16 forces on Friday, when the man resisted arrest outside a club in Oldham, Greater Manchester.

A police spokesman said that while attempts were made to arrest the man for an alleged criminal damage offence, the officers were subjected to extreme violence and aggression and deployed CS "incapacitant sprays". After medical treatment he appears to have suffered no lasting effects from the spray.

Doctor shortage

Patients are being put at risk because more than half of NHS hospital casualty wards are short of junior doctors. Labour said. Harriet Harman, Shadow Health Secretary, released figures showing that 25 per cent of accident and emergency departments had vacancies and 57 per cent had problems in filling junior doctor posts.

Tanker cleared

The last of 65,000 tonnes of North Sea crude still aboard the stricken oil tanker *Sea Empress* was finally pumped off, two weeks after she ran aground off Milford Haven. At least 500 people are still involved cleaning beaches. More than 2,200 dead birds have been found and another 3,000 are being cleaned by the RSPCA.

Guns on train

Four handguns were found on a Bournemouth-Manchester train after a man who had been arguing with a ticket inspector jumped from a window at Wolverhampton. The man was then caught by transport police officers and questioned about his ticket. It was later realised he had not reboarded and the guns were discovered in a hold-all.

Body found

The body of Darren Baker, 27, was discovered in a field in West Sussex seven weeks after he was reported missing in a car crash four miles away. A police helicopter and dogs failed to find Mr Baker, a married man from Washington, after the crash at Findon on January 14. Foul play is not suspected.

Lavatory humour

A pharmaceutical company is sponsoring a cartoon competition to dispel the stigma associated with constipation, from which 14 million people in Britain suffer. The results of the challenge will be announced ahead of National Constipation Day, scheduled for April 16. The winner will receive £1,000.

Scapa mystery

An Army diving team will this summer try to discover what happened to the destroyer *HMS Pheasant*, which disappeared on March 1, 1917, while guarding the Atlantic approaches to Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands. Of the 102 men on board, the body of only one, a Midshipman Cotter, was ever found.

Seal savours

Staff at 16 Sea Life Centres around Britain are to provide a national network to respond to emergencies among the seal population around Britain. The centres, attractions featuring marine life in natural settings, will deal with problems caused by pollution, abandoned nets and uncaring parents.

£5m jackpots

Two tickets hit the jackpot in the National Lottery at the weekend, scooping £5.2 million each. Camelot, the organiser, said 19 tickets won nearly £170,000 for matching five numbers plus the bonus, and almost 1,000 collected £2,101 for correctly forecasting five numbers. Winning numbers, page 20

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Union urges teachers to steer clear of violence

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS are being urged by trade union activists not to intervene in violent incidents even if a pupil is in danger.

The headmaster Philip Lawrence was stabbed to death in December when he tried to rescue a pupil from a gang outside his northwest London school. A government working party set up after the incident will complete guidelines on school security this week.

The group, which includes union representatives, will call for stronger police powers to deal with school intruders.

Next month's annual conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers will hear a call for members to keep out of potentially violent confrontations altogether.

A motion from the union's Derbyshire South branch demands that all members be advised not to put themselves at risk when they or their pupils are threatened.

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, said: "Our advice to teachers

at the moment is to be extremely careful and not do anything for which they have not been trained."

The sentiments behind the motion were condemned by Mr Lawrence's union, the Secondary Heads Association. John Dunford, the president, said: "You cannot tell people not to carry out their duty as a citizen in going to help someone in trouble."

Mr Dunford said Mr Lawrence's death had made teachers more aware of the dangers of intervening, but added: "Most NASUWT members that I know would not think twice about going to the rescue of a young person in trouble."

Security will be one of the main issues in approaching teacher union conferences.

Government guidelines on school security have been reviewed by the working party in the light of Mr Lawrence's death. A report to be published this month will support calls for legislation on the carrying of knives and suggest new police powers to arrest

intruders on school premises.

Union representatives want other offensive weapons to be included in any legislation, but this is unlikely to be practical.

The report will urge schools to review security and is expected to call for improved school discipline.

Robin Square, the Schools Minister, will today announce an £18 million initiative on disciplinary measures. A total of 62 projects in 43 local authorities will experiment with "behavioural support teams", extra staffing for referral centres and school units for pupils on the verge of expulsion.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, has increased the funding for projects in the next financial year to almost £4 million. Support teams in 22 authorities will advise schools on the best methods of coping with disruptive children, while staff in 17 others will hone their disciplinary skills and help to raise academic standards in centres for excluded pupils.

Labour education adviser shuns local comprehensives

By JOHN O'LEARY

A PROFESSOR who advised both Government and Opposition on state schools spoke yesterday of his regret at deciding that his daughter would be better off outside the comprehensive system.

Professor Michael Barber, one of the architects of new Labour education policy, has ruled out sending his 11-year-old daughter to any of the comprehensives in Hackney, east London, where he once chaired the council's education committee. He has offered to resign from the governing body of Haggerston School.

Professor Barber, Dean of New Initiatives at the London University Institute of Education, is a member of the Government's schools improvement task force as well as being an adviser to Tony Blair. He said yesterday that

he would have preferred to send Aly to a local comprehensive but it had been a family decision not to.

"Decisions about school choice have to be a partnership, and in this case the family settled on a selective independent or grant-maintained school," Professor Barber said. "Many parents, not just in the middle classes, now seek for their children an alternative to the inner-city comprehensive, and it is one of the great challenges to produce a state system that will woo them back."

Professor Barber, a former education officer of the National Union of Teachers, said: "I recognise that this decision exacerbates the very difficulties that inner-city schools face, but most parents simply want to do the best for their children."

Tony Blair's choice to

Professor Barber's choice as a fresh example of Labour "hypocrisy". Graham Lane, the Labour chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities' education committee, said the decision was characteristic of an unrepresentative group that was advising Mr Blair.

Winning numbers, page 20

FIRST THERE WAS BRISTOW.
THEN THERE WAS ALEX.
NOW, THERE'S
OLIVER AND CLAIRE...?

THE OLIVER & CLAIRE STRIP

مكتبة من المكتبات

Businessmen are told they can travel through cities in tanks as fears grow over organised crime

Travel agents offer armed bodyguards to British in Russia

BY RACHAEL JOLLEY AND STEPHEN FARRELL

THE growth in criminal violence against Western firms in Russia has led British travel agents to offer visitors armed guards.

Fears over the rise in organised crime in Russia were highlighted last week by the death of John Hyden, a lawyer from Edinburgh shot in gangland crossfire in a St Petersburg hotel.

One agency, Hogg Robinson, said it could provide a "complete" security package through its subsidiary Russian specialists Worldmark Travel. "We could have you go around the city in a tank if you wanted one," said Bob Faggeter, Worldmark's sales manager. "You can have the guards armed, you can have them unarmed. You can virtually ask us for whatever you want. We could supply personal bodyguards or we could

scale it down to a personal English-speaking guide with you in all situations."

The Times contacted a number of travel agencies, posing as a business seeking round-the-clock protection for three employees going on a two-week trip to Moscow, St Petersburg and Nizhny Novgorod.

Worldmark and American Express both said they could arrange security, the latter through the Russian travel agency Intourist.

Others refused, citing the risks involved. Among these was Leeds-based Alpha Omega, which organised Mr Hyden's trip. "We have made arrangements for our own peace of mind when we went there, but we have never done it on a commercial basis for the simple reason that we did not know where we would stand if the guards we provided

were unable to fulfil the role that they were contracted for," said Ian Wotton, the director. "What happened to Mr Hyden was a tragic accident. We have never experienced anything like it before. But there are a lot of Western companies doing great business over there."

International hotels in Russia have themselves realised the need to offer guards. Prices quoted by the Grand Hotel Europe in St Petersburg ranged from \$14 per hour (£9) for an English-speaking guide and offices, with the guards paid \$1,500 a month. Visiting businessmen pay \$200 to \$250 a day for two armed guards, with extras negotiated.

Specialist security agencies have sprung up in the cities. Sergei Botnev, head of the Moscow security firm Grom, said most of his foreign clients lived in the country and had long-term contracts with his firm to protect their homes

and offices, with the guards paid \$1,500 a month. Visiting businessmen pay \$200 to \$250 a day for two armed guards, with extras negotiated.

"We can find you what you want; if you want an armoured Mercedes we can find you one," Mr Botnev said.

Mr Faggeter said: "St Petersburg is probably the most sensitive area. There is more

hooligan-type crime there — it is mafia, really. If they get an idea about something going on which is to their benefit, they will get involved. Of course we can get you met at the airport straight from immigration and get you hustled through Customs."

Mr Faggeter said that they had taken a trade mission to Alma Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan.

"On that trip, we took an executive jet over to Tashkent and everywhere we went we had a Mercedes in front of our vehicle and a Mercedes behind us with guards in it and all the lights were set on green."

"That wasn't with any British government minister in attendance, that was purely a trade mission. So you can get

30,000 murders in Russia in 1994, three times the US rate; and a 10.7 per cent increase in crime against foreigners in Moscow in early 1995.

"Local and foreign businesses should expect extortion demands from the gangs, which are often backed by threats of violence." Explosives are used in retaliation for non-payment, it says.



Bodyguards from the Moscow security firm Grom. Last week, a British lawyer was killed when he was caught in gangland crossfire in St Petersburg

Big Bang doubts quelled by finding

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR



Morris hid under seat
Parents sue theatre over Peter Pan 'nightmare'

THE Big Bang theory has been vindicated by a new study which shows that the universe is about 15 billion years old. The finding resolves the paradox caused by earlier estimates of only about 10 billion years, which would make the universe younger than the stars it contains.

The new age is consistent with the age of the oldest stars, believed to be about 13 billion years. The team responsible, led by Dr Alan Sandage of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, says that the new results "eliminate the idea of a crisis in cosmology".

The team used the Hubble Space Telescope to measure the absolute brightness of a series of supernovae by observing variable stars in the same galaxies as the supernovae. A class of stars called Cepheid variables have the useful quality that the period with which their brightness rises and falls is related to their absolute brightness.

The Hubble telescope enables better observations of more distant Cepheids to be made. Their distance away from the Earth can be calculated by comparing how bright they appear with how bright they actually are. That, in turn, gives a good idea how far away the accompanying supernovae are.

Once the distance of the supernovae, known as Type 1A, is known, it is possible to work out their absolute brightness by seeing how bright they look and then making allowance for distance.

The team has now measured the peak brightness of six supernovae in different galaxies and included results on a seventh from another team. It found they are, indeed, remarkably similar.

Knowing speed and distance it is possible to calculate when they started out at the moment of the Big Bang.

This turns out to be 15 billion years ago. The figure will come as a comfort to cosmologists because it is older than the ages of the oldest stars and thus enables the Big Bang theory to survive.

A BOY aged three was allegedly so terrified by a production of *Peter Pan* that his parents are suing the theatre.

Morris Mitchener burst into tears when a pack of "wolves" burst on to the stage at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, and he was scared stiff by the crocodile.

Morris dived under his seat within minutes of the curtain going up and sat through the next 45 minutes with his face buried in his father's arms, wailing "Get me out, get me out".

His parents, Amanda and Mark Mitchener, who left during the interval, say Morris now has nightmares about the J.M. Barrie play. They blame the theatre for failing to give advance warning that the show might be unsuitable for under-sevens.

Mrs Mitchener, who is expecting her second child, said: "It was like an X-rated horror movie for a child of his age. I'd never seen *Peter Pan* done like this before."

The narrator's voice had sounded "like Peter Cushing at 100 decibels" and Peter Pan had come on stage dressed like a crow in a costume of black feathers. "It was a terrible ordeal. Morris has had nightmares and bad dreams ever since," Mrs Mitchener said.

The boy had travelled with his family from East Bergholt, Suffolk, to visit his grandmother. The family is suing for their son's stress and trauma after turning down an offer of tickets for another children's show.

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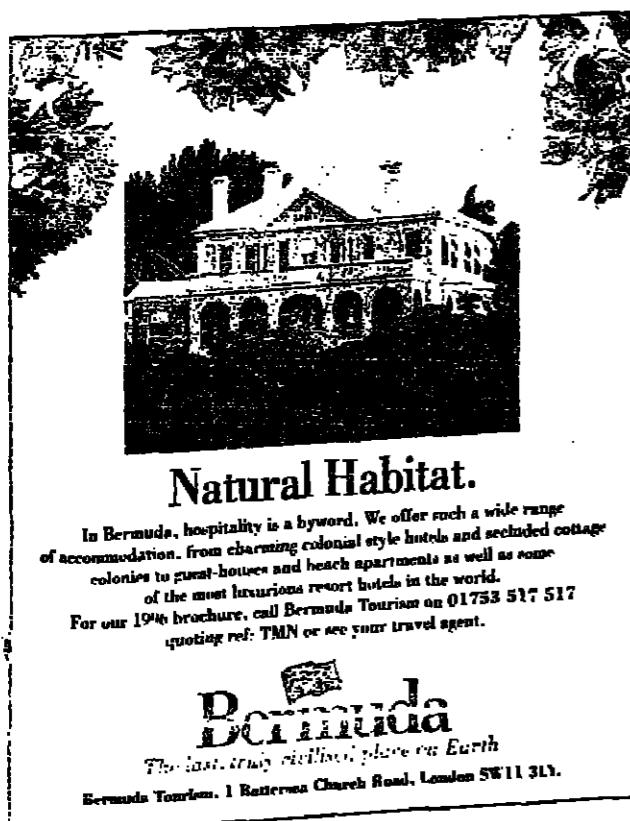
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Governor is 'not ruling anything in or out'

Patten hints at political comeback in Britain

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER
IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN indicated yesterday that he would like to return to top-flight politics in Britain after his stint as Governor of Hong Kong ends in June next year.

The former Conservative Party chairman and continuing close confidant of John Major, who at 52 is a year older, told political journalists that he could "certainly" see circumstances in which he would make a political comeback. His remarks fuelled speculation that he sees himself as a possible leadership candidate. Mr Patten said he remained interested in issues at the centre of debate in Britain and Europe, a sentiment that will please Tories on the Centre Left. "How could I not be? I have been professionally involved in politics since I was 21," he said.

As party chairman during the crucial 1992 general election campaign, Mr Patten helped to defy the pollsters and steer the Tories to an unexpected victory. However, it was a bittersweet victory, for he found he had sacrificed his own seat of Bath in the process, and the blow was scarcely alleviated by his appointment as Governor.

After a period during which it appeared he would opt for a business career after leaving Hong Kong, Mr Patten has



Chris Patten and John Major touring Hong Kong yesterday during the Prime Minister's visit

recently struck friends and colleagues with his unflagging interest in the British political scene. He is understood to have confided to friends that he would even consider a comeback if Labour were to win the next election. In such circumstances he would swiftly become a future Tory leadership contender.

Because of the timing of the Hong Kong handover to China, he will be unable to stand at the next general election, which must take place by May of next year. But yesterday's remarks about his future, that he was not ruling anything out, nor was he ruling anything in, suggested that he could follow the advice of his strongest supporters and stand in a by-election early in the next Parliament. Suggestions that he has not

given up hope of one day becoming Tory leader were raised by a recent speech in which he called for deep cuts in public spending, which some saw as an attempt to broaden his appeal to the Right. There have also been indications that he may be shifting his stance away from strong pro-Europeanism, including doubts about the target date for a single currency.

Mr Patten made his remarks on the eve of today's speech by the Prime Minister on the future of the territory after the handover. Although his comments were cautiously worded, he was clearly relaxed about being questioned over his political future. He said that when he was Environment Secretary he did not spend all his time thinking what he would do next; the

same applied when he was party chairman.

"I do not finish here until after the last election date for the next election. So, as I have always known, I would miss that. I am still interested in all the political issues. I cannot fail to do that because I am a political animal."

Asked whether there were circumstances in which he could return he replied: "Yes, certainly. It would be unwise of me to follow that hypothesis too far. I am not ruling anything out. I am not ruling anything in."

His remarks will be of interest to senior Tories. Most believe that the only circumstances in which he might become leader are if the Conservatives lose the next election. If they win, Mr Major, having twice rescued victory from the jaws of defeat, would be expected to carry on.

The Governor's attempts to democratise Hong Kong before the handover have led him into a series of verbal battles with Peking. The Chinese have not minced their words. At various times they have branded Mr Patten a serpent, a drooling idiot and a whore. At one point his close friends said he was suffering from "battle fatigue".

His problems have been the same as in Britain: he has been attacked for being too left-wing by the Right and too right-wing by the Left.

Guests grit their teeth at colonial banquet

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

THE movers and shakers in Hong Kong were assured by John Major last night that even after 1997, when the colony has become a part of the People's Republic of China, "the United Kingdom will be with you in the future as in the past... you will not face the future alone".

It was the last thing a substantial number of the 160 guests at a private banquet in the ballroom of Government House wanted to hear. They were the tycoons and chief executives who are now members of the Peking-appointed Preparatory Committee, drawing up plans for the future regime.

The evening was a testament to colonial grandeur, with perhaps the grandest moment coming at the outset. The Prime Minister, the Governor and Mrs Patten filed



The banquet menu

Millions more to be given visa-free visiting rights

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR is expected to try to meet one of the biggest concerns of Hong Kong residents by announcing today that they will not need a visa to visit Britain after the handover to China.

Two million Hong Kong Chinese, holders of Hong Kong SAR (Special Administrative Area) passports, would be able to travel freely without visas to Britain, giving them the same right as the 3.6 million citizens who are to have British national overseas status after 1997.

On the eve of what is certain to be a tense encounter with the Legislative Council, the Prime Minister and Chris Patten, the colony's Governor, dismissed claims by elected politicians that Britain was "selling out" the colony in the interests of enhancing trade with China.

Mr Major fiercely rejected a suggestion by Martin Lee, chairman of the Hong Kong Democratic Party, that he had given up his battle to persuade Peking not to abolish the Bill of Rights. Mr Patten said last night that Mr Lee's charge that Hong Kong was being betrayed for trade with China was absurd.

Mr Patten billed Mr Major's speech today to leading businessmen from Britain and Hong Kong as the most important anyone had made in the colony for a long time. He said he would underline Britain's continuing commitment to Hong Kong.

Mr Patten told journalists that not to grant visa-free access for colony residents to Britain could lead to "very serious economic repercussions". This is not about right of abode. It's about right of travel. There is no political downside and a good deal of commercial upside."

Mr Major fiercely rejected a suggestion by Martin Lee,

past the tables, preceded by a piper in full Scottish regalia—a Chinese piper. When he reached the top table, instead of offering him a tot of whisky, Mr Patten presented the startled musician with an entire bottle.

The very richest tycoon of all, Li Ka-shing, once an apoplectic contributor to Tory party finances, now very near the Peking inner circle, was present. So was the Chief Justice, who not long ago told one of the top Communist diplomats here that Hong Kong's Bill of Rights was harmful to the rule of law.

Mr Major fiercely rejected a suggestion by Martin Lee,

then ended its association with the former Yugoslavia that began with Irma, a victim of a mortar bomb blast. Irma died 20 months later after 12 operations. Her father, who was at her bedside, said she had died happy.

Dr Southall, a trustee of the charity, estimates that up to 500 more children, many of them orphans living in bombed out houses, require

urgent medical treatment from the West. But funds for charities have dried up since the ceasefire.

Dr Southall, Professor of Paediatrics at Keele University, has brought a further 23 children to Britain, out of the glare of the media spotlight, since Operation Irma. Most have returned, fully recovered from their injuries. He said last

night: "The situation in Bosnia is now desperate. Many of the children we have seen and identified as in need of care will die or grow up with serious deformities."

"They will be in pain for the rest of their lives because the right medical help will not be given to them in time. The war may have ended. But it has not ended for these children."

Cash shortage forces Irma's doctors to withdraw from Bosnia

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE BRITISH doctor who brought Irma Hadzimuratovic, 7, and other young victims of the war in Bosnia to London in August 1995 is withdrawing his charity medical team from Bosnia because funds have run out.

Doctors and nurses at Child Advocacy International have agreed from

today to work without salaries so they can continue to help chronically sick children in the former Yugoslavia.

Dr David Southall, who masterminded Operation Irma at the request of John Major, has only

enough funds to pay for six more

children to be flown out of Sarajevo to British hospitals. The charity will

not be able to afford to treat the remaining 500 children.

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urgent medical treatment from the West. But funds for charities have dried up since the ceasefire.

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Spanish Popular Party reaps reward as voters turn against Socialists after 13 years in power



Felipe González and his wife voting in Madrid yesterday

Aznar claims poll win

FROM EDWARD OWEN AND TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

IN THE most venomously fought Spanish general election since democracy was restored in 1977, the conservative Popular Party (PP) was last night claiming victory over the Socialists, who have been in power for more than 13 years.

Early exit polls gave the PP 40.2 per cent and 41.1 per cent of the vote, securing them between 160 and 174 seats in the 350-seat lower house of parliament. In the last general election in 1993 they gained 34.81 per cent, 141 seats. An exit poll conducted by the newspaper *El Mundo* and the television station, Antena 3 predicted that the Popular Party might win between 165 and 176.

The Socialists were forecast to poll around 34 per cent, or between 120 and 135 seats, compared to 38.65 per cent, 159 seats, in 1993. The Communist coalition, the United Left, was given 11 per cent or about 23 seats. Catalan and Basque nationalists, who had 17 and five seats respectively in the

last legislature and who could hold the balance of power if the PP fails to gain an absolute majority, were predicted to obtain 14 and 6 seats respectively.

After hearing the results of the exit polls, Mariano Rajoy, the deputy leader of the PP, said at the party's headquarters in Madrid, with thousands of supporters cheering outside: "What's important at the moment is that there's been a political change in Spain and we are going to govern. But we'll have to see, as the night goes on, what the exact results are and the extent of that change."

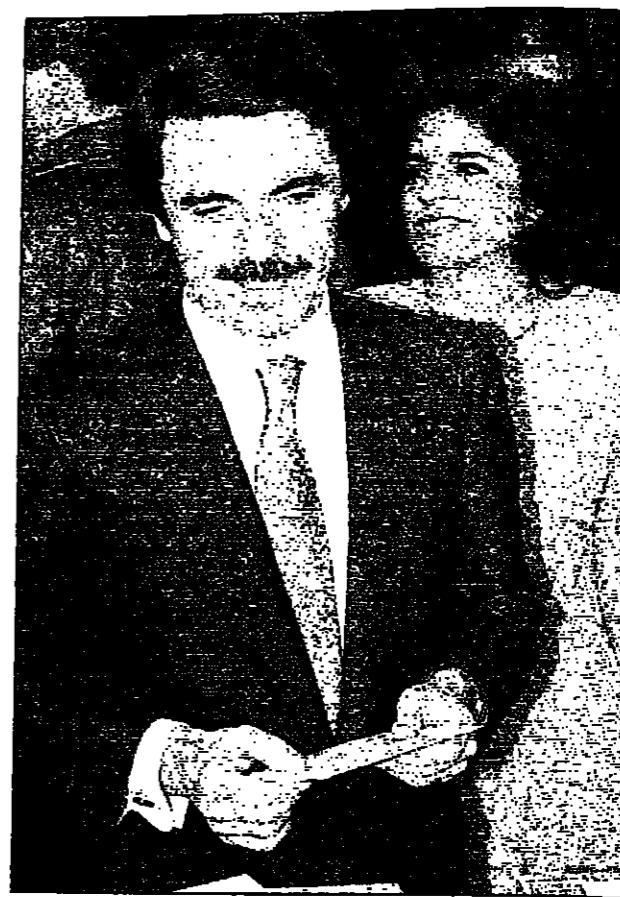
Sunny weather ensured a large turnout from among the 32.5 million electorate, with a total of 74 parties fighting for 350 seats in the congress and 208 in the senate. In the southern region of Andalusia, 5.57 million were eligible to vote in simultaneous elections to the 109-seat regional parliament where the Socialists appeared to have held off a PP

challenge in their traditional stronghold.

A Popular Party win would complete a cycle which began in 1994 with victory in the European Parliament elections and continued last year with success in the municipal and regional elections. This campaign has been marked by profound mistrust. The electorate was mainly divided between those who wanted a change — with the Socialists hit by numerous corruption scandals, the highest unemployment in Europe (23 per cent) and renewed Basque terrorism — and those who suspected a decade ago.

The relative importance of Jordi Pujol, 65, the crafty Catalan president, depends once again on whether he can act as the power broker. Rallied by the Catalan nationalists, he said: "The votes we don't get reinforce the PP and the Socialists who won't be able to, and don't want to, defend Catalonia."

Newspaper editorials over the weekend all pleaded with the electorate to use their democratic right to vote, still considering something of a novelty. The Catholic and monarchist *ABC* and *El Mundo* have both crusaded for Señor Aznar. Even *El País*, which has traditionally supported the Socialists, said the opposition had "the relative advantage" of being able to question "the credibility of the Socialists".



José María Aznar and his wife at their polling station

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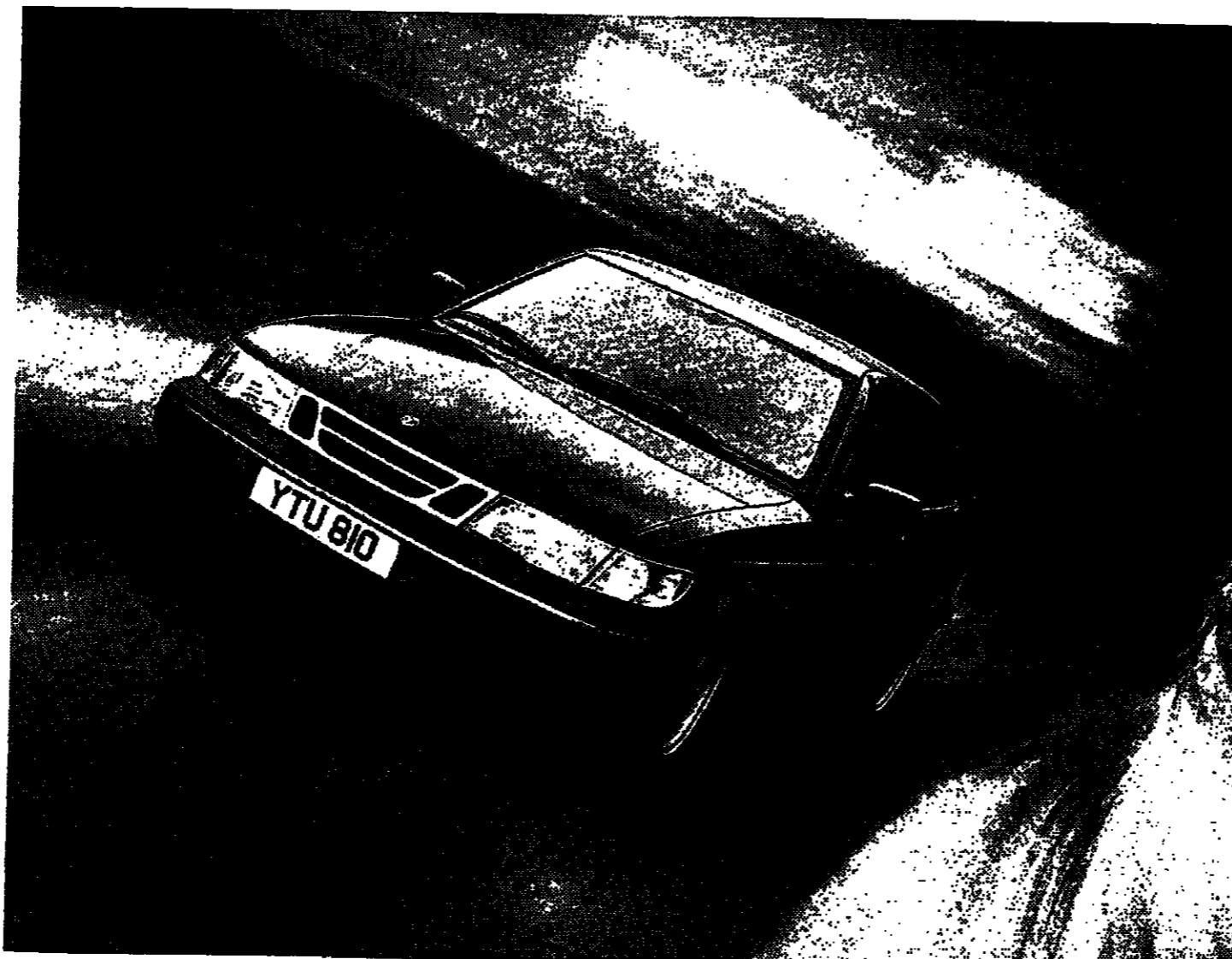
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SAAB, SWEDEN'S CAR OF CHAMPIONS

Right signals harder line over Europe

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

JOSE MARIA AZNAR is an embryonic Euro-sceptic in a land where the European Union is worshipped almost blindly. Britain and Brussels were watching yesterday's election like hawks.

Señor Aznar does not question the value of Spain's association with Europe. In fact, he has emphasised often the importance of the EU in consolidating his country's democracy, in the modernisation of its industry and institutions, and in the role it played in helping Spain to bury decades of cultural isolation under General Franco.

In his book, *The Second Transition*, published in 1984, Observers expect Señor Aznar to oppose any move away from decisions by consensus in the council. Majority voting, he has declared, is not for him. His greater independence — he is in many ways an old-fashioned Spanish nationalist — is also likely to make Spain a more muscular player in Europe.

Ministers stake their shirts on majority rule

Over the weekend, Europe's prime ministers mingled in Bangkok in their free silk shirts. Next weekend, European Union foreign ministers fly to Palermo, the Sicilian capital, for a huddle. The Italian Government will also hand out suitable gifts: bullet-proof vests perhaps.

As they beeline around the globe, the ministers are supposed to think about how the EU can make more of a mark in world affairs. Prescriptions for bigger, better joint European foreign policies were released last week by the French and German Governments and by the European Commission. This week the three Benelux Governments will chip in.

On paper, things look grim for John Major: his senior partners want, in the words of Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, "to do great things together". And they want to decide them by majority voting.

But all this argument on paper belongs to the unreal world in which ministers discuss Europe's "interlocking security architecture" without ever mentioning Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechnya, or any of the places where neighbours have been killing each other since the end of the Cold War. European states still conduct foreign policies shaped and driven by national interests. Look no further back than the last meeting of EU foreign ministers. Greece, represented by the boozing Theodore Pangalos, wanted to condemn Turkey's role in the two countries' row over a handful of rocky islets in the Aegean. Britain, represented by the milder Malcolm Rifkind, wouldn't agree. Stalemate.

The Greek media went bananas. The publisher of *Adesmeftas Typos* wrote that this was not the first time that "the complex-riden British have displayed their preference for Ottoman law [a euphemism for homosexuality]. I was so angry that if my associates had not held me back, this newspaper would have come out with the front-page headline 'British queers!'".

Greece has a long history of bargaining inside the EU in pursuit of two things: money and the obstruction of Turkish interests. As Yugoslav disintegrated, the Government in Athens single-handedly stopped the rest of



the EU from recognising Macedonia and was accused of allowing sanctions busters to supply Serbia through Greece. One senior European Commission official openly encouraged journalists in Brussels to call for Greece to be thrown out of the EU.

But the Greek problem is only an extreme version of the flaw in the idea that the EU can act like a diplomatic superpower. Big states have no intention of toeing an EU line if the policy chosen by the majority conflicts with their national interests.

Germany revealed this truth five years ago and no other EU government has forgotten the moment. Germany wanted to recognise the then new-born states of Slovenia and Croatia; 11 other countries, Lord Carrington, the European peace envoy of the day, and the US Government issued a warning that the move would be premature and could trigger a civil war in neighbouring Bosnia. By threatening to break ranks with its partners, Germany blackmailed everyone else into early recognition. The rest is history.

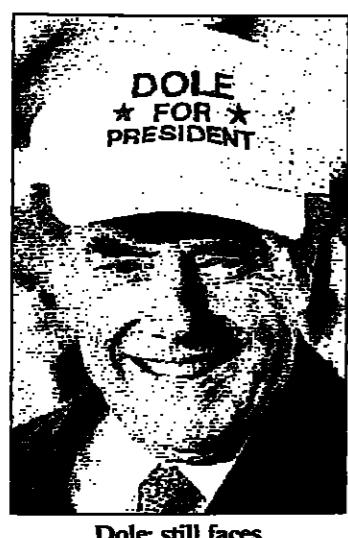
Foreign policies are affected by the clauses in the Maastricht treaty which spell out the rules of the "common foreign and security policy". Where the EU's 15 members get added value by lining up together — when negotiating a non-proliferation treaty, say, or talking to Russia — co-ordination machinery is there to help. But voluntary co-ordination has its limits. What France and Germany say they want now is a tougher system to make faster decisions and to ensure that everyone sticks to them.

But when the next emergency occurs, expect the states most closely concerned to ignore inconvenient clauses in the EU treaty. That's what Britain and France did over Bosnia.

GEORGE BROCK

كذا من الأرض.

Dixie state boosts Dole as he girds for Georgia battle



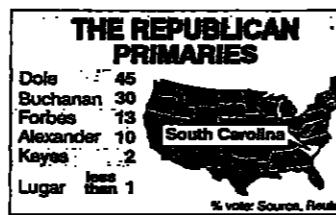
Dole still faces tough road ahead

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN ATLANTA

ROBERT DOLE regained pole position in the race for the Republican presidential nomination yesterday, thanks to a decisive victory over Pat Buchanan in Saturday's crucial South Carolina primary.

The 72-year-old Senate leader romped home with 45 per cent of the vote in a contest he simply had to win after devastating defeats in New Hampshire and Arizona. Mr Buchanan, the popular insurgent, came second with 29 per cent and Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, third with 13.

Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, won just 11 per cent in a Southern state next to his own and his candidacy is effectively over. He vowed to fight on but is short of money, has yet to come higher than third in any primary,



DELEGATES ELECTED

State	Delegates
Dole	72
Forbes	60
Buchanan	37
Alexander	10
Keyes	4

and even Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, told him to quit.

Mr Dole told jubilant supporters his win marked a "new beginning". It certainly gave him a big boost before tomorrow's eight "Junior Tuesday" primaries, and from this

point on the whole nature of the race changes dramatically and greatly to his advantage.

South Carolina's primary was the last in which the candidates had time to "work" a state. From tomorrow there will be an unprecedented rush of 22 primaries in 21 days. Mr Dole is the front-runner and has the strongest organisations in almost every state, and his rivals will be hard pressed to devote enough time and resources to any one contest to upset him.

However, the race has already proved wildly unpredictable and Mr Dole is not out of danger yet. He generates little real excitement, and even he admitted that while South Carolina was "a big one", we still have a tough road ahead".

Mr Buchanan claimed Mr Dole was "carried across the finishing line" in South Carolina by a party establishment that included the

state's past and present Governors and 93-year-old Senator Strom Thurmond. David Beasley, the present Governor and born-again evangelical, certainly helped Mr Dole to eat into Mr Buchanan's support among South Carolina's religious Right. But Mr Buchanan insisted he could yet destroy Mr Dole's "hollow" campaign by winning Georgia, the biggest of tomorrow's contests, where he won 36 per cent against President Bush in the 1992 Republican primary.

The latest poll showed Mr Dole only eight points ahead of Mr Buchanan in the Peach State. He took a big risk by skipping a televised debate in Atlanta last night and does not have a party establishment to help him here. The Governor is Democratic. Mr Gingrich - a local congressman - must remain neutral as Speaker, and only two of Georgia's seven other

Republican senators and congressmen have backed Mr Dole.

Mr Buchanan vowed to fight Mr Dole all the way to August's convention in San Diego. He is consistently attracting more than a quarter of the Republican vote, and said the party would "split asunder" and his followers would walk out of the convention if the eventual nominee refused to ban abortion or picked a pro-choice running mate.

Mr Forbes also pledged to fight on to the convention and seems willing to continue pouring his fortune into his campaign. He hopes to win giant New York state on Thursday, where only he and Mr Dole are on the ballot in every congressional district and he has been advertising heavily. Unlike Mr Forbes, Mr Dole faces a \$37 million (£24 million) spending ceiling because he accepts federal campaign funds and is dangerous-

ly close to reaching it.

Mr Dole has now won four primaries and 77 delegates. Mr Forbes two contests and 60 delegates, and Mr Buchanan two contests and 37 delegates. A measure of the race's continuing volatility and the field's weakness is the increasing pressure on Colin Powell.

Republican Party operatives have been privately asking whether the popular retired general would agree to be drafted if none of the present candidates reached the convention with a majority of delegates. Intermediaries have reportedly sounded him out about becoming Mr Dole's running mate.

"There is no question the heat has turned up," General Powell's son, Michael, told the *Boston Globe*. "There are lots of people calling. It's started all over again."

William Rees-Mogg, page 16

Howard faces early challenge from Australian trade unions

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIANS woke up yesterday to a new era of conservatism that could see the Liberal Party in power until well into the 21st century.

The landslide victory, in which the Liberal-National coalition won a majority of at least 44 seats in a 6 per cent swing against Labor, places a question mark over industrial relations, Australia's ties with Asia and the issue that has done so much to divide public opinion over the past four years - the replacement of the Queen as head of state and the declaration of a republic.

After nearly a quarter of a century in parliament, John Howard became Australia's twenty-fifth Prime Minister with the biggest majority in 21 years. Such was the scale of his triumph in Saturday's election that the political face of Australia may never be the same again. "While I will seek at all times unity and a common point of view, we have not been elected to be just a pale imitation of the Government we have replaced," Mr Howard said.

The Liberal leader will outline his plans in detail today, but there have already been murmurs of discontent from the trade union movement. Maritime workers said they would stage a big campaign of opposition to planned changes in government shipping policy.

John Combs, the national secretary, claimed unions would not be alone in an industrial war with the Government, although he hoped it would not reach that point.

The wages accord that the unions had with Labor is to be replaced with a national move to enterprise bargaining. There is already talk, however, of 30 per cent pay demands and possible strike action.

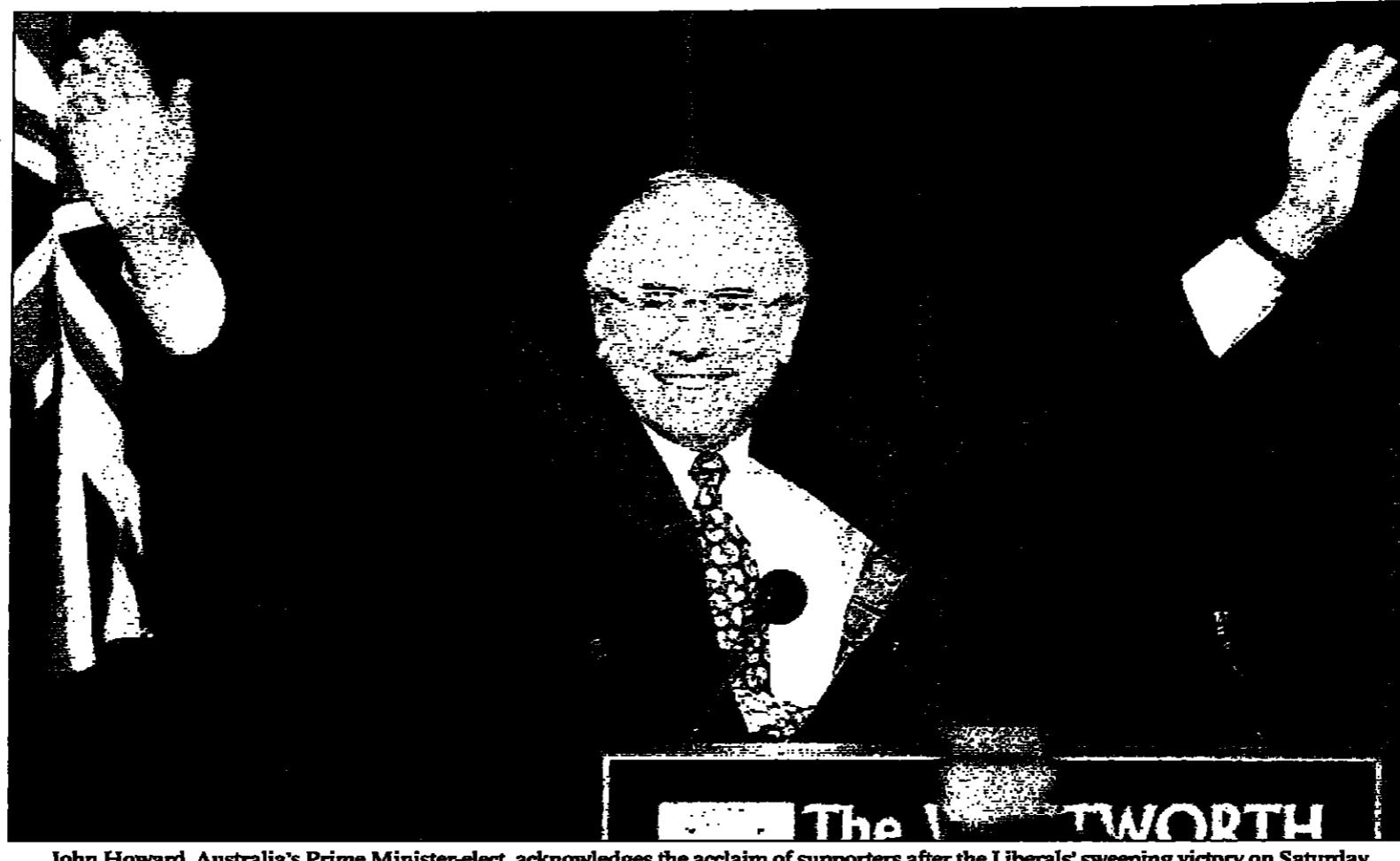
While a return to the bad old days of widespread industrial unrest is unlikely, there is no doubt that industrial relations represents the new government's greatest challenge.

The coalition also made its position clear on Asia yesterday. Asked if he shared the view of Paul Keating, the outgoing Prime Minister, that Australia was part of Asia, Alexander Downer, who is expected to be appointed Foreign Minister, gave an emphatic "no".

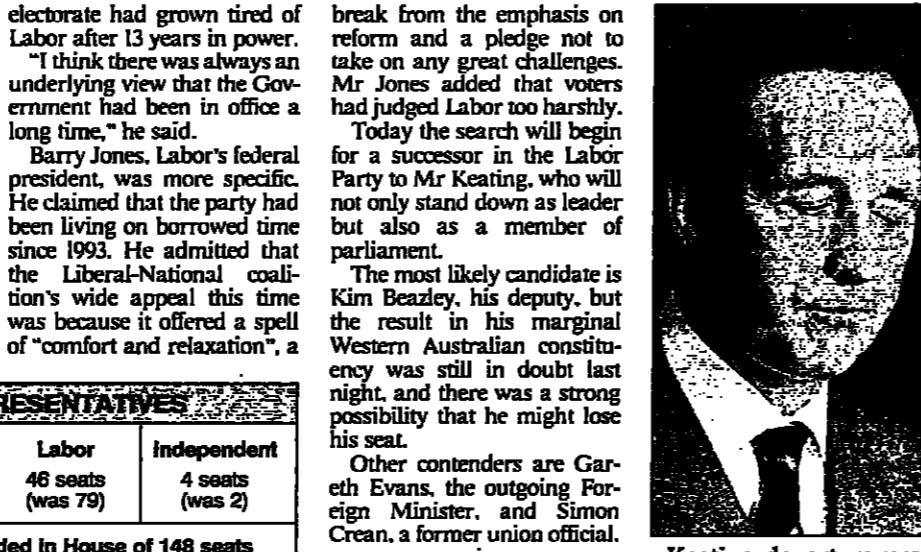
He reaffirmed Australia's focus on Asia, but insisted that Canberra would not let its strong ties with Europe and the United States unravel.

"Our most important priority is the Asia-Pacific region, but that does not mean we will be turning our backs on the US or European Union," he said.

The Keating camp began to pick up the pieces yesterday as an inquest began into what went wrong. Eight ministers, almost a third of the former Cabinet, lost their seats and Mr Keating conceded that the



John Howard, Australia's Prime Minister-elect, acknowledges the acclaim of supporters after the Liberals' sweeping victory on Saturday



Keating: departure may help republican cause

Chinese rocket killed 6

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN PEKING

A FAMILY of six Sichuan peasants was killed when a Chinese rocket carrying an American communications satellite exploded last month because of a defective guidance system, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

According to the agency, a Long March 3B rocket carrying a satellite for the Washington-based Intelsat veered off course just two seconds after lift-off from the Xichang space centre on February 15. After 22 seconds its nose hit the ground and exploded, destroying the satellite.

At the time there was a news blackout, designed to conceal from the 1.2 billion Chinese, as they neared the lunar new year festival, that the launch programme had suffered a reverse. State television and radio reported the casualties for the first time on Saturday night.

An investigation showed that damage to the launch centre was minimal, indicating that the programme could be resumed soon.

Cuban exile pilots brave storms to drop wreath for fallen comrades

FROM DAVID ADAMS OVER THE STRAITS OF FLORIDA

IT WAS no ordinary funeral, more like a prayer circle in the sky. There were no bodies or caskets, just an orange flare that marked the spot in the sea below, about 21 miles northwest of Havana. Where US officials say two light planes were shot down a week earlier by a Cuban MiG fighter.

Flying low over choppy seas and dodging dark clouds, Cuban exile pilots paid their last respects at the weekend to the four dead fliers, all members of the Miami-based Brothers to the Rescue.

"Our hearts are relieved," said Jose Basulto, founder of the Brothers group, moments after dropping a wreath into the sea from 500ft. "We have come back and said our prayers for our brothers."

As eight exile planes flew in a wide "racetrack formation" around the flare, a Catholic priest on board Basulto's plane read a eulogy. "We bless these waters, the grave of so many of our brothers," he said. He also recited a poem, *The Day I Left Cuba*, written by one of the victims, Pablo

Morales, a young rafter who was rescued by the Brothers in 1992.

Three US Coast Guard ships patrolled the waters below, marking a "goal-line" that the exile pilots were instructed not to cross. But the most hostile element was the weather, as rough seas kept a flotilla of 35 boats from reaching the site and forced a dozen other planes to turn back.

In the ensuing 30 years hundreds of thousands of Cubans have fled across the 90-mile-wide Straits of Florida between Miami — home to

Leine Albright, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, pay tribute to the dead men.

The rally revived memories of the Orange Bowl speech President Kennedy made after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1962. Kennedy was presented with a Cuban flag which he promised to return to a "free Cuba".

In Miami, 60,000 exiles congregated at the Orange Bowl stadium to hear Made

Signe's comment in the Philadelphia Daily News

700,000 Cubans — and the island of 11 million.

In his first public comments since the planes were downed, President Castro told *Time* magazine that the Cuban air force pilots "did their job".

Although the Cuban military did not intervene in the memorial service, Senior Basulto did exchange a few words with Havana air traffic control. "We saluted the good people of Cuba, and we said we have nothing against people working for the Government, they are brothers too," he said. But the answer he received was less cordial.

"They gave me some of the best of their new revolutionary Spanish," Senior Basulto said, in a reference to the expletives used by the MiG pilots after firing the missiles.

After Ms Albright's mid-week comment, "That wasn't *colonies* [bullets], that was cowardice," she was guaranteed a hero's welcome in Miami.

Recalling her own flight as a child from communism in Czechoslovakia, she said the dead men were "martyrs".

Simpson detective's racism was 'fantasy'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE "genocidal" racism of a detective at the heart of the O.J. Simpson trial may have been largely a fantasy invented to help a struggling screenwriter, investigations have revealed.

Tapes of an ugly diatribe by Detective Mark Fuhrman against blacks and Hispanics formed a key part of Mr Simpson's defence against murder charges last year. Johnnie Cochran, the defence lawyer, described Mr Fuhrman as a "perjuring, genocidal racist", but an inquiry has found he had several close friends who were black.

Mr Fuhrman seemed an ideal prosecution witness.

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Leine Albright, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, pay tribute to the dead men.

The judge noted that readers of the book would discover that Sheril

rupting passage described the sexual proclivities of the late artist, Amitri Sheril: "She was said to have given appointments to her lovers with two-hour intervals, at times six to seven a day."

Khushwant Singh has long cultivated a boozing, free-sex image that friends say is a facade. Shobha De, another of India's biggest-selling authors, who writes frankly about sex in her Joan Collins-type novels, said he was "gracious and hugely complimentary to women and that's

about it. And I have never seen him take more than three drinks".

The judge noted that readers of the book would discover that Sheril

believed in sexual athleticism. "I am sure had Khushwant Singh not come out with the objected passages no-one would have got the chance to enter and inhabit the real world of these persons."

The author observed in his book that, with her reputation, Sheril drew men to her like iron filings to a magnet. He had been no exception.

"I eagerly awaited the day of seduction. It never came."

Not so for the late Malcolm Muggeridge, apparently, who in his early 20s spent a week with the painter in Simla where "she had reduced him to a limp rag". An exhausted Muggeridge reported later: "I could not cope with her. I was glad to get back to Calcutta."

The book has landed at a time of intense debate about morality and tradition. There has been a backlash against the new promiscuity.

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

KHUSHWANT SINGH, 80, India's most famous drunkard and dirty old man, as well as its most popular and prolific writer, has won a case in the Delhi high court in which he was accused of insulting dead people by sharing intimacies about them in his book, *Women and Men in My Life*.

CRICKET



23

England
lose to
Pakistan
as injuries
mount

RUGBY UNION



29

Scotland
point the
finger at
English
forward

SCHOOLS SPORT



30

Teamwork
puts cross
country
in first
place

BOXING



32

Benn has
second
thoughts
about
retiring

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 4 1996



Championship at stake for Premiership's high rollers

The £56 million showdown

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

TONIGHT at St James' Park, football meets the ultimate in high finance. The game between Newcastle and Manchester United, pivotal to the FA Carling Premiership season, involves opponents whose player-purchases amount to £56 million — and this is money actually spent, making no allowance for the price that the likes of Ryan Giggs, Nicky Butt or Steve Howard would fetch on the open market.

If you add Liverpool, the only other contenders for the title, to the pricing equation, it means an outlay between the three of £94 million. The gap behind those three is as large as Liverpool made it appear yesterday. This is the kind of spending that goes a long way to eliminating sporting chance. It explains why no team outside the Premiership is still involved in the FA Cup; and it is the reason why Uefa is preparing to sell the soul of the European Champions' League, by allowing the so-called leading clubs into the competition next season, whether they qualify or not.

The unfairness of this adds to the spice of the meeting tonight. Newcastle have to win the championship for the first time in 69 years in order to enter the arena of the Champions' League, the prize for which is likely to be no less than £15 million. On the other hand, strange but true, if Newcastle win tonight, and win the championship, it may not make a penny of difference to Manchester United's cash flow. The prize-money actually at stake from the Premiership is £897,600 for first place, £85,800 for second, and because Manchester United were more popular on television than Blackburn Rovers last season, their share of the television pool came to more than Blackburn's.

Enough, for the moment, of bal-

ance sheets. We are looking tonight at young men driven to the extremes of their skills and temperaments. We know that there is a thin line between confidence and arrogance, a thinner one between competitive zeal and violent intimidation. We recall, when Manchester United beat Newcastle 2-0 at Old Trafford just after Christmas, how even Kevin Keegan admitted that his side lacked the commitment, the sheer hunger of the Manchester club. Roy Keane surged from midfield in a manner that overpowered Robert Lee. Nicky Butt made flying tackles near the bone in every sense; tackles that were legitimate so long as his timing was spot on. The margin between controlled aggression and unacceptable violence had to be judged by a referee who was paid just £300.

The result could hinge on one

TOP 100 PLAYERS

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle		27	19	4	4	92	25	61
Man Utd		28	17	5	5	95	28	57
Liverpool		28	16	7	5	95	24	56
Aston Villa		28	14	7	7	98	24	55

decision, affecting every pound spent, every effort, since February 1992, when Keegan met Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, and fired the ambition of a club that was then destined. Sir John is an entrepreneur who will not gamble on the club's wealth without seeing profit. This in time, may come from another market, the potential £1.5 million per game from private digital television channels. It may seem alien, but so, once upon a time, were foreigners; the rivals tonight possess players of ten nationalities.



Giggs, the modern professional footballer from head to toe

Newcastle's ideal is a club of multisports, one that will require ethics of the highest order if it is to be wholesome and marketable.

Keegan has been Sir John's champion, his cavalier football has inspired everybody. Yet, in the past month, he has spent £11 million on two players, on the beauty laced with poison of Faustino Asprilla, and the bantamweight combatant, David Batty. Is he beginning to rationalise that greater force, a bending of the belief in pure talent, is necessary?

Was he last week defending the indefensible when he protected Asprilla from the accusations that flew as high as a Colombian elbow? Keegan may say that club discipline is a private matter, just as Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, did a year ago after Eric Cantona's assault on a spectator.

TOP 100 PLAYERS

Report, page 25

Newcastle United

Today: Manchester United (h), Mar 9; Nottingham

Forest (a), Mar 16; West Ham United (h), Mar 23;

Arsenal (a), Apr 1; Liverpool (a), Apr 8; Queens

Park Rangers (h), Apr 8; Blackburn Rovers (a), Apr

13; Aston Villa (h), Apr 27; Leeds United (a), May

4; Tottenham Hotspur (h). To be arranged: Southampton (h).

Manchester United

Today: Newcastle United (a), Mar 9; Leeds United

(h), Mar 16; Queens Park Rangers (a), Mar 24;

Nottingham Forest (a), Mar 21; Aston Villa (h), Mar

13; Southampton (a), Apr 27; Nottingham Forest

(h), May 4; Middlesbrough (a).

Liverpool

Mar 9; Arsenal (a), Mar 16; Chelsea (h), Mar 23;

Nottingham Forest (a), Apr 1; Newcastle United

(h), Apr 8; Coventry City (a), Apr 8; West Ham

United (h), Apr 15; Everton (a), Apr 27;

Middlesbrough (h). May 4; Manchester City (a). To be arranged: Wimbledon (h).

but the game, indeed the business, is public. We must see and hear what is done to keep it within bounds.

Of course, the responses of Cantona, Asprilla and David Ginola are fascinating to us. They are men who play intuitively, close to the boundaries of art and, under provocation, cannot always control their emotions. By contrast, we have Les Ferdinand and Andy Cole, £6 million and £7 million apiece, whose competitive instincts need constant service in the field and arousal in the dressing-room. Cole, returning to Newcastle, is the X-factor tonight. At Old Trafford, he scored a wonderful and, lately, rare goal against the club that sold him, the club whose supporters will never forget the 68 goals in 83 games that Cole scored for them.

We have scarcely mentioned Giggs. He has just signed a personal deal with Reebok worth up to £6 million over six years. He is a team player, yet Jonathan Edwards, the Newcastle-based triple jumper, also has a sportswear sponsorship which, provided that he becomes the phenomenon of his sport, winning the Olympics and everything else, would amount to £500,000 over three years. On paper, this puts the footballer at 12 times the marketable value of the triple jumper.

It is all tied to the worldwide attraction of football in general, and Manchester United in particular. Tonight, at the sharp end, the drama is being played in a Toon where Steve Bruce, captain of the opposition, will remind himself that he once seemed destined to work in the Swan Hunter shipyard. There are no longer jobs at Swan Hunter; and Bruce is worldly enough to appreciate that he is now in a millionaires' game instead of sharing the unemployment queue with people in Newcastle, his home town.

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Leading article, page 17

Let us in on the secrets of wired-up referees

Saturday afternoon got off to what even the most charitable would describe as a curious start, with Bill McLaren retelling the story of one of the "great lighthouses" of Scottish history, Robert the Bruce. McLaren finished the inspirational tale of Bruce, Bannockburn and the patient spider, with a question — and a dreadful pun. "Will Robert the Bruce emulate his ancient kinsman?"

Four and a quarter tortuous hours later came the answer — no. Richards the Lionheart had seen to that. But as Rob Wainwright, bloodied and bowed, led his dejected troops from Murrayfield, it was possible to reflect that the afternoon had not been entirely wasted.

We had discovered, for instance, that Steve Rider has a

sense of humour. Not just the easy-going wit that gets him through everything that the *Grandstand* schedule can throw at him, such as Doddie Weir's Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, but a really wicked streak that the BBC anchor-man had previously kept hidden. Its unveiling came during a pre-recorded interview with Will Carling, the England captain.

It is one of the curious facts of media life that as Carling's public profile has risen ever higher, his interviews about rugby have grown correspondingly duller. There is a sense that a certain subject is being avoided. But that does not mean he cannot be teased. As the pre-match interview followed its predictable path, Rider paused, gave that encouraging smile and began:

"Lay one thing to rest for us. Will ..." Carling shifted un-



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

easily. "Or, at least, put it in perspective ..." The stare suddenly became a don't-you-dare glare. "Your relationship with ... Yes, yes — I swear I could hear the cheer from my local pub urging Rider on. "With ... Go on, Steve, go on. "With Jack Rowell ..." The groans were as loud as those that followed Gregor Townsend's abortive charge towards the England line.

The main event, however, was Murrayfield — billed as one of those great afternoons of shared experience, a sport-

ing stepping stone — along with the Grand National, Boat Race, FA Cup and Wimbledon — on the BBC's road to the Olympic Games. The fact that it so miserably failed to live up to expectations is hardly the corporation's fault.

In terms of picture quality, the coverage from Murrayfield was outstanding, with producer Grigor Stirling making full and effective use of all the cameras available, including the reverse angle camera (which explained more than one initially strange

refereeing decision) and handheld cameras patrolling both the touchlines and behind the posts.

Things were not quite so happy in the commentary box. The Calcutta Cup would not be the Calcutta Cup without McLaren and his knowledge of every player's middle name, but the veteran commentator must come to a working accommodation with one of the technical features of the modern game — the live audio link with the referee. Just because he has just been deafened by Derek Bevan's whistle, it does not mean that his commentary should be peppered with "loud blasts". At home, we can barely hear the whistle.

Nor does it mean that there should be regular periods of silence, while McLaren chuckles over Bevan's latest commands on the pitch. "He doesn't half tell them off" is not good enough. McLaren should, either tell us exactly what is going on (which is presumably its purpose), or turn the wretched thing off and get back to doing what he does best, i.e. the useful.

The alternative would be for the audio link to be extended to all of us. This would presumably find considerable favour with the West London reader who wrote in to complain that the pitch-side microphones no longer seem to capture the linguistic rough and tumble of the game in quite the way they used to. We should follow the more adventurous example set by the French broadcasters, he urges: "Surely the BBC ought to be willing to risk the occasional robust phrase slipping out?" Comments please — of more than four letters.

STEPHEN MUNDAY/ALLSPORT

Faldo falters as Norman takes pole position

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN MIAMI

GREG NORMAN, the world No 1 from Australia, was poised to win the Doral Ryder Open golf tournament in Miami for the third time in six years yesterday.

By his own admission, Norman is some way short of his best form, but after completing his rain-disrupted third round yesterday morning, he shared the lead on 203, 13 under par, with Vijay Singh, of Fiji, two shots ahead of Joe Ozaki, of Japan, and the American, Michael Bradley.

Nick Faldo, the defending champion, was seven strokes behind, on 210, and the Briton needed a speedy start if he were to trouble the leaders. He did not get it.

The 1st, a 514-yard par-five, was playing more or less into a frisky breeze, and Faldo, who claims to hit the ball 20

yards further with his new, hi-tech Mizuno T-Zoid driver, certainly gave it a good belt off the tee, outdriving Loren Roberts, one of his playing partners, by at least 20 yards.

The official measurer reported a drive of 256 yards, and Faldo waited for the green to clear before hitting the driver again, a little right, into the deep bunker guarding the green. An indifferent splash-out ended 18 feet past the pin, the first putt raced four or five feet past, and the next hit the hole — and stayed out for a six. It was the sort of start to get the juices running in the wrong direction.

The odds must favour Norman, simply because this is a piece of turf that the flamboyant Australian loves. The Blue Monster, as the pride and joy of the Doral Golf Resort and Spa is called, may not be the terrain it once was — the 18th

"I'm a little out of sync," he said, but he intended to adopt an aggressive policy in the final round, given how soft the greens were after all the rain.

"I'll aim at the top of the flagstick," he said.

Jesper Parnevik, wielding a long putter on Singh's advice, was two shots better than Faldo, on 208, but Sandy Lyle and Bernhard Langer missed the cut. At least there was a European presence in the television commentary box — David Feherty, on leave from the European Tour, was working for CBS.



Paul Lawrie, of Scotland, displays his trophy after achieving a one-shot victory in the weather-hit Catalan Open

Lawrie's long wait ends in victory

FROM MEL WEBB
IN TARRAGONA

PAUL LAWRIE won the Catalan Open golf tournament at Bonnont yesterday without hitting a shot, but that does not mean that it was anything but hard work. Lawrie had led this wind-wracked tournament in the clubhouse overnight, and he endured a thousand agonies as he sat and watched and waited to see if anybody had the game to come through the field and overtake him at the death.

Fierce winds are a fact of life in this part of Catalonia, and they were up to their mischievous best on three of the four days of the tournament. They caused a total abandonment on Friday, and by Saturday morning David Garland, the tournament director, had

ditched all his plans to play the event over 72 holes: even 54 was out of the question. So 36 it was, and Lawrie, who led after the first day with a 63, held his nerve to complete a courageous 70 to lead on 135, nine under par. Then came the really painful part. There were players who had still to finish their rounds yesterday morning who had the opportunity to take Lawrie on the line, and he could not do a thing about it.

David Howell, who had been a shot behind Lawrie in the dim and distant past of Thursday, seemed to be the best placed of the lot — he was six under par after nine and needed three more birdies to over the last seven holes to tie, and he was on a roll.

Lawrie is a stoical character

who does not allow himself wild excesses of public emotion, but he could not prevent

the odd flicker of concern to cross features that are as craggy as the buildings of his native Aberdeen. He did not permit himself a small smile until Bolognesi put his ball in a bunker on the short 5th and dropped a shot.

The Italian was now four behind with only three to play; the tournament was won and lost.

Fernando Roca finished second a shot behind Lawrie, with Domingo Hospital a further stroke adrift, one ahead of Andrew Sherborne and Bolognesi.

Last year Lawrie played feebly in the first half of the season and finished 107th in the money list, so his one target of getting into the top 50 in 1996 seemed lofty enough. After this victory, which earned him £50,000, he can start to aim just a little higher.

Bolognesi, who started at the 10th, had five birdies and only one bogey in a front nine completed in 32, then picked up another shot on the 2nd. He needed three more birdies over the last seven holes to tie, and he was on a roll.

Lawrie is a stoical character

who does not allow himself wild excesses of public emotion, but he could not prevent

Canada fail to win Olympic reprieve

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE disciplinary committee of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) found insufficient evidence at its meeting in Brussels yesterday to support Canada's charges of match fixing brought against India and Malaysia on the final day of the Olympic qualifying tournament in Barcelona on January 28.

The committee could not conclude, from the statistics, that the result of the match had been prearranged, even though the figures indicated that neither side showed any aggression.

Representatives of the three countries involved in the dispute stated their case at the meeting. A goalless draw, enabled Malaysia to qualify for the Olympic Games in Atlanta, leaving Canada high and dry. India had earlier qualified.

On the domestic front, Old Longtonians collected six points to put themselves among the leaders of the first division, in the National League, following up a hard-earned 2-1 victory over Barford Tigers on Saturday with the 3-0 defeat yesterday of St Albans at Chigwell.

St Albans started with plenty of fire, but went into the interval two down. An early warning shot was fired for Old Longtonians by Fedham, who hit a post before Halls converted a short corner in the nineteenth minute.

Lee added the second goal from open play nine minutes later and completed the scoring in the last minute from a short corner in the second half.

Reading scraped through at East Grinstead. Osborn's goal from a penalty stroke in the last minute enabling them to half but missed the target with their best chances. With only three matches to go, they seem unlikely to avoid the drop.

Towers stay on track for a clean sweep

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE threatened clean sweep of basketball's domestic honours by London Towers took another step towards fulfillment yesterday. Already 7-1 up trophy winners, the Towers added the Sainsbury's Classic Cola national cup to their sideboard, in a depressingly one-sided final against the holders, Shelford Sharks.

The advantage of playing in front of the majority of their supporters in the Sheffield Arena where they had not previously been beaten, was not one that appeared to fill the Sharks with undue optimism.

Restricted to their lowest score of the season by English opponents, they lost 70-58 and apart from one brief spell of 32 seconds when they led for the only time, always seemed to be in danger of relinquishing their grip on the first half of the double they captured last season.

So ill-equipped were the Sharks to deal with the all-round power of the Towers, that the winners never needed to be at their best. Indeed Kevin Cade, their coach, was hardly unstinting in his praise. "The shooting of both teams was atrocious," he said, "and defensively, there is still another level which we can reach."

minutes to go, it was far too late.

Hightown were not alone in their misery. Trojans, storming away at the top of division one and last year's cup finalists, were edged out of the competition by Clifton yesterday. Holding the premier division side to a 1-1 draw at full-time they were beaten 3-1 in the penalty shoot-out.

Not even that was as bad as the fate of Ealing. Lurking in the lower reaches of the league two, they faced non-league Winchester in the cup and were promptly beaten 3-1.

Marsden forces Hightown to lie low

BY ALIX RAMSAY

AFTER three months without a competitive outdoor match, it stood to reason that Hightown would be a little rusty when they took to the hockey field on Saturday at the start of a hectic weekend of league and cup ties. The degree of their fall from grace, however, took everyone by surprise.

As league leaders, they were hoping to resume their challenge for their first premier division title with victory over fifth-placed Clifton. Unfortunately, they had not account-

ed for Lorraine Marsden and Lucy Culliford, who both hit the target in a 2-1 reverse. Hightown ought to have known better. Until this season, Marsden was a regular in their outdoor squad and still plays for Hightown indoors. Not that the Liverpool team were putting up too much of a struggle, looking lacklustre from start to finish. Jackie Crook managed an equaliser midway through the second half with a penalty stroke, only for Culliford to score the winner.

Surely, though, Hightown were bound to do better in the

AEWHA Cup? They were, after all, the holders and had never lost to Doncaster. But again they went down to a supposedly lesser side, again by 2-1.

Doncaster were on a high, having hammered five goals past Bracknell on Saturday in a bottom-of-the-table encounter and, facing a distinctly out-of-sorts Hightown on Sunday, they were 2-0 up in the second half, both goals coming from Claire Ferguson. Only then did supposedly stronger side get going but by the time Yana Williams pulled on back with three

minutes to go, it was far too late.

Hightown were not alone in their misery. Trojans, storming away at the top of division one and last year's cup finalists, were edged out of the competition by Clifton yesterday. Holding the premier division side to a 1-1 draw at full-time they were beaten 3-1 in the penalty shoot-out.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Oxford maintain their domination

OXFORD continued their dominance of the University women's rugby union fixture in beating Cambridge for the eighth consecutive time, 32-7, at Ifley Road yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes). A superlative first-half performance put Oxford into a 27-0 lead at half-time, and the match was as good as won. Oxford were indebted to their pack, who rucked and mauled with impressively good technique, reflecting the input of their male Blue coaches. Heather Lockhart, who scored three of the home side's six tries, was outstanding.

Outside, although Cambridge have a dangerous runner in Justine Curneyen at centre, it was Jo Hudson (31, Cribbs King Union) Conversions, Cribbs Cambridge Try: Curneyen Conversion, Hatfield.

SCORERS: Oxford: Tries: Lockhart (31, Cribbs King Union) Conversions, Cribbs Cambridge Try: Curneyen Conversion, Hatfield.

Warriors battling on

ICE HOCKEY: Newcastle Warriors, although beaten 8-4 by Fife Flyers, maintained their challenge for a play-off place because their nearest rivals, Milton Keynes Kings, lost 8-7 at home to Nottingham Panthers. With a home game to come against the bottom club, Slough Jets, the Warriors will surely do enough to qualify. The one remaining place in the promotion/relegation play-offs was filled when Guildford Flames gained their anticipated win over Peterborough Pirates, which meant that Paisley Pirates, who won 6-4 at Medway, cannot qualify. The eight teams involved in the championship play-off will be divided into two groups with the top two in each group qualifying for the semi-finals.

Ivanisevic wins again

TENNIS: Goran Ivanisevic, right, of Croatia, continued his impressive run when he beat Marc Rosset, of Switzerland, 6-3, 7-6 to win the Italian indoor tournament in Milan yesterday. It was Ivanisevic's third title this year, after his successes in Dubai and Zagreb last month. Ivanisevic, 24, said: "I'm playing just unbelievable tennis. I've found consistency and that's what is making the difference."



Di Martino prevails

FENCING: France won the London round of the men's épée World Cup as Jean-François di Martino took the gold medal when Roy Sung Yang, of Korea, retired with cramp while di Martino led eight hits to three. Di Martino was in confident form and had looked the likely winner. Of the Britons, Quentin Berriman, the national champion, finished eighth after losing 15-13 to Olivar Lücke, of Germany.

Living dangerously

FOOTBALL: A goal from Caroline McGloin two minutes before the end of extra time was enough to take Croydon through to the semi-finals of the UK Living Women's FA Cup, where they will meet Ipswich Town. Croydon's quarter-final against Doncaster Belles yesterday was goalless at full-time, and appeared to be heading for a replay when McGloin struck late in the second period of extra time.

McRae in the clear

MOTOR RALLYING: Colin McRae, of Great Britain, dominated the opening ten stages of his first Rally of Thailand, finishing the first day 46 seconds clear of Kenneth Eriksson, his Subaru team-mate. "Apart from an intermittent misfire, we've had no problems all day and I'm pleased with our position at the end of the first leg," McRae, the world champion, said.

Easy for Appelmans

TENNIS: Sabine Appelmans, right, swept away Julie Halard-Decugis, of France, 6-2, 6-4, in little more than an hour yesterday to win the Generali tournament in Linz, Austria. Appelmans, of Belgium, the No 6 seed, had lost her two previous matches against Halard-Decugis, the No 3 seed, but needed only 32 minutes to win the first set, taking the first five straight games before letting her opponent score.



Jalabert jubilant

CYCLING: Laurent Jalabert, of France, won the Tour of Valencia. Mario Cipollini, the Italian sprinter, headed a mass finish at the end of the 95-kilometre first section of the fifth and final stage, but Melchor Mauri, Jalabert's ONCE team-mate, won the concluding 21-kilometre individual time-trial, confirming the domination of the ONCE team, which took the first five individual places.

Smith completes revival

CURLING: David Smith, the former world champion, completed his comeback yesterday, winning the Macallan Scottish championship by beating Hammy McMillan, the European champion,

Holders romp to emphatic triumph after Smith and Atherton see good opening stand wasted

England ease Pakistan's progress

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN KARACHI

KARACHI (England won toss): Pakistan 2 pts; England by seven wickets

ENGLAND'S credibility as a one-day team has never been so low. Their latest role seems to be as some kind of cricketers' mission, taking in opponents fallen on hard times and rebuilding their strength and confidence.

Pakistan were the beneficiaries yesterday, and a day that had begun with murky rumour of divisions in the camp of the World Cup holders ended with stirring soapbox promises that the cup can be retained.

Perhaps it will be, for a day in the company of England can plainly work wonders. Pakistan were wobbling after their resounding defeat by South Africa on Thursday. Theirs is a volatile environment, and the simmering unrest, internal and external, would have been brought smartly to the boil by another loss. Now, however, they can march boldly into India, where they have not played for



seven years, claiming that they fear nothing about the country or the cricket.

It was easier to swallow this show of confidence than the apparent insouciance of the England management. Michael Atherton and Raymond Illingworth presented a united front, but their joint communiqué, stating that "a lot of good things came out of the game", was impenetrable. Victory would have been the only nourishment for this team, and there was not a single moment, at the business end of the game, when that seemed in prospect.

What made it such a grisly defeat was that it should have been avoided, or at worst jeopardised. The first half of the England innings yielded 134 runs without loss, the platform for a final total in excess of 300. The second half disintegrated, supplying 115 runs, nine wickets, and presenting Pakistan with a target of 250 that did not even require them to engage top gear.

In any sensible competition, the upshot of England's third defeat in three games against a serious opposition would be a flight home, followed by the usual chest-beating calls for structural revolution. In this two-track tournament, England have another chance. Like a car failing in MoT, they have been deemed unroadworthy. But they can turn up again for a retest next weekend, and proceed as if none of this had happened.

Theoretically, they have landed in clover by finishing



Atherton loses his off stump to Sohail after sharing a 147-run stand for England's first wicket with Smith. Photograph: John Pryke

as the fourth and last qualifier from group B. They must meet the winners of group A in Faisalabad, and their opponents will not be Australia or India, but Sri Lanka, who banked four points from forfeited games. Nobody should be sanguine about further progress, but it is a fact that, when this competition began, England would have expected to beat Sri Lanka six times out of ten.

The squad is likely to undergo further change before the quarter-final, after a hamstring injury sustained in the field yesterday by Neil Fairbrother. Nasser Hussain is the probable replacement, should one be granted today, and it is valid to question whether a player who has become as injury-prone as Fairbrother, and whose batting has declined with his fitness, should have been an original selection.

England, however, have not done much right on this trip. Even the decision to bat first yesterday appears, in hindsight, a howler. Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, said that he would have bowled first anyway "because

ENGLAND SCOREBOARD

England won toss						
	P	W	T	L	Ps	NRR
South Africa	4	4	0	0	8	1.76
Pakistan	4	3	1	0	6	0.98
New Zealand	4	3	1	0	6	0.84
England	5	2	3	0	4	0.07
UAE	5	1	2	2	3	0.24
Kenya	4	1	1	2	2	0.20
Zimbabwe	4	1	1	2	2	-0.95
RESULTS: West Indies beat Zimbabwe by 6 wickets. Hyderabad: Sri Lanka beat Australia, Colombo; Sri Lanka beat Kenya by 7 wickets. Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 5 wickets. Colombo: India beat West Indies by 9 wickets. Gwadar: Australia beat Kenya by 97 runs. Visakhapatnam: Sri Lanka beat West Indies by 16 runs. Bangalore, England: UAE beat Kenya by 5 wickets. Karachi: UAE beat Holland by 9 wickets. Pakistan beat England by 7 wickets. Karachi.						
FINAL: Tomorrow: Holland v South Africa, Rotterdam (04.00). Mar 6: Pakistan v New Zealand, Lahore (03.30).						
GROUP A	P	W	T	L	Ps	NRR
1. Sri Lanka	4	4	0	0	8	0.90
2. Australia	4	3	1	0	6	1.27
3. India	4	2	2	0	4	0.39
4. West Indies	4	1	3	0	6	-0.24
5. Zimbabwe	4	1	3	0	6	-2.50
RESULTS: West Indies beat Zimbabwe by 6 wickets. Hyderabad: Sri Lanka beat Australia, Colombo; Sri Lanka beat Kenya by 7 wickets. Sri Lanka beat Zimbabwe by 5 wickets. Colombo: India beat West Indies by 9 wickets. Gwadar: Australia beat Kenya by 97 runs. Visakhapatnam: Sri Lanka beat West Indies by 16 runs. Bangalore, England: UAE beat Kenya by 5 wickets. Karachi: UAE beat Holland by 9 wickets. Pakistan beat England by 7 wickets. Karachi.						
FINAL: Mar 13: Faisalabad winner v Bangalore winner, Calcutta (08.00). Mar 14: Karachi winner v Madras winner, Chandigarh (20). Mar 15: India v Zimbabwe, Kanpur (03.30). Mar 16: Sri Lanka v Kenya, Karachi (03.30).						

it is better to chase runs on this wicket". One could see his point, though in fairness there seemed little wrong with Atherton's decision while he and Robin Smith were launching the innings at five runs an over. Smith, preferred to Alec Stewart, set the tone with a short-arm pull for six off Waqar Younis in the fourth over, and when Wasim turned to Mushtaq Ahmed to

the flow, Atherton hit him out of the attack with refreshing purpose.

Mushtaq was withdrawn after conceding 39 runs in five overs, and it was the part-time leg spin of Salmi Malik that broke the stand when Smith, by now feeling his calf strain and using a runner, chipped to mid-on. Even devotees of England collapses could see no obvious way they might

squander this situation, but somehow they managed.

Hick, losing his bearings against Salmi, was tamely stumped second ball, and when Atherton was bowled, making room to cut, England had lost three wickets for nine.

The remainder of the innings would be best glossed over but for another valiant contribution from Thorpe, who has scored 227 runs for

twice out in the past four games. That nobody could stay with him was due partly to Mushtaq, who returned with a second spell of three for 14, and partly to the spineless incompetence that grips England in adversity.

On the type of slow, sullen

pitch that turns bowlers to thoughts of alternative careers, England's chance of victory now rested with Pakistan's penchant for self-destruction, but they did not oblige. Their left-handed openers, Sohail and Anwar, were savage on anything off-line, and the required rate was achieved from the start. Richard Illingworth split them, but hardly threatened again, as Atherton explored his options, with upwards of a dozen bowing changes, only Cork provided the necessary

pace.

The crowd went home happy

after the local hero, Javed Miandad, batted briefly on his latest farewell to Karachi, and Atherton left the ground defantly perky. "We will go to Faisalabad with more confidence than we brought into this game," he said. If only one could believe him.

There was the most extraordinary start to the innings when Jayasuriya set about Prabhakar with a rare purpose.

The left-hander took 22 off the bowler's second over,

driving him out of the attack with four fours and a mighty six. When Prabhakar returned it was as an off spinner and he

was treated with similar disdain by Ranatunga. His four overs cost 47 and he may now forfeit the all-rounders role.

India chose to play Ankola,

a fourth seamer, and their bowling was so plain that Tendulkar had to bowl a full quota — as if he had not done enough on the team's behalf. Once Jayasuriya had established the tone, the runs simply poured, 82 in the first ten overs with the hundred coming up in the fourteenth. It was a dazzling performance and ensured that the rate of the rest of the game was a manageable five per over.

Jayasuriya's brutal 79, made from 76 balls, justifiably earned him the individual award. This really was a match-winning performance, and although he lifted Kumble to long on — the first of three

lia and West Indies has given them a sense of mission.

The game deserved a better

setting than this ground,

which is inadequate for the requirements of an international competition. Nor were the much arrangements any better. Ticket-holders were denied admission and so were men like Clive Lloyd, Wes Hall, and I.S. Bindra, the president of the Indian Board of Control. In addition, two Indian journalists were assaulted outside the ground by police officers.

None of this is surprising. Methods of accreditation to these games are so unreliable as to be worthless. An English journalist who turned up in Bombay for the India-Australia game walked straight into the ground, no questions asked. The BBC Radio correspondent, fully accredited, was jostled by a zealous policeman.

Captain Fearful senses approach of firing squad

Simon Wilde's WORLD CUP EXTRAS

IT IS hard to know who is less sanguine about his future, Michael Atherton or Richie Richardson. Each is openly fearful that a bad World Cup for his side could be the death of his leadership. Both may be right. The difference is that, in the Caribbean, revenge is a dish they prefer to eat cold.

This may explain some

random remarks from Richardson yesterday on the eve of

their vital match against Australia. "It's time for someone else to take over, I don't have a problem with that," he said. "I will still support the West Indies team and West Indies cricket 100 per cent. I know people at home are hurt and they're very disappointed... it was a really bad performance [against Kenya] and we deserve to get criticised."

If Richardson is fired, he

may not play for West Indies

again. He is 34 and — as his

predecessor, Viv Richards,

discovered — West Indies captains rarely play on under their successors.

Hat trick snub

Another snub for the World Cup jobsworths. Anxious to preserve the integrity and culture of the game, one of their number told Jack Russell in Ahmedabad three weeks ago that he could not wear the floppy, white hat that the Gloucestershire and England wicketkeeper is believed to have worn since 1981: he had to wear one in England's "traditional" one-day colours of sky blue instead. Russell ignored him and played in the hat anyway.

Another official attempted

to prevent Javed Miandad

going out to bat against England in Karachi yesterday in a white helmet rather than Paki-

stan's one-day green. Miandad refused to change it. "I've worn it for the last 20 years and I am not going to stop now," he replied. Mind you, Miandad has had bigger fish than this in his homeland, where few umpires are bold enough to give him out leg-before and he once used his influence with the prime minister to remind the national selectors of the wisdom of picking him.

Dubious hypes

The encounter in Jaipur today between the World's Most Hyped Batsman (Brian Lara) and the World's Most Hyped Bowler (Shane Warne) is something of a rarity. They had met only three times in one-day matches in the Caribbean last year, when Lara scored 55, 62 and 139.

Warne did not take his wicket, which he has only claimed once in eight Test matches. Not that either believes the hype about the other. Lara thinks Warne has fewer variations than Mushtaq Ahmed; Warne that Sachin Tendulkar is a more unforgiving batsman than Lara.

Just the ticket

Supporters queued for ten hours to buy the first tickets to go on sale yesterday for the World Cup quarter-final in Bangalore next Saturday, on the off-chance that it will be between arch rivals India and Pakistan, who have not played each other on the subcontinent since 1969. "Everybody expects it to be an India-Pakistan match. That is the reason for this frenzy," an official of the Karnataka State Cricket Association said. If the unthinkable happens, a huge security operation will be mounted, with units of India's border security force and 2,000 police drafted in for the day-night match.

Ma Junren: harsh

Ma's army ready for return to front line in Atlanta

MA JUNREN, the controversial chain-smoking Chinese track coach, a rough-hewn ex-soldier who two years ago fell from grace after his "family army" of female athletes mutinied and deserted over alleged harsh discipline, seems set to lead his "soldiers" to the Olympic Games after a six-strong team won an unexpected victory in an international marathon relay race here.

"If I am entrusted by the Chinese public to go to Atlanta, of course I will do my best," Ma, 52, said after China led home 15 best. Ma, 52, said after China led home 15

Ma has reason to be pleased. Before the race, he referred to the fifth place achieved by China under another coach last year and said: "Today's result will definitely be better than last year, but given the young age and lack of experience of the new runners, we're hoping to finish fourth but will strive for third."

Of the six members of Ma's family army in the event, four — Wang Xiaoxia, Cong Li, Yue Chao Xia and Wang Kai Xia — were unknowns. The others were Dong Yanmei and Cui Ying, a thin, intense girl, who beat the sun during grueling training sessions, who was the first Chinese runner in the relay and set a cracking pace.

Ma's girls, most of sturdy peasant stock from the rural areas of Liaoning in rugged northeast China, wear the short haircuts

that have the hallmark of Ma's army. Ma favours them because he says that they are "good for the skin".

These crops were one of the reasons that

runners such as Wang Jun Xia, left in 1994 with others a few months after an earlier row over hairstyles and a boyfriend, had lied Liu Dong, the 1,500 metres runner, to leave.

Jing Bo, China's new Olympic hopeful, was originally listed to take part on Saturday, but was inexplicably absent.

Qiu Yunxia, the 1,500 metres world record-holder, was sick with a liver complaint.

Romania came second and Japan, who won the event last year, third. China's time of 2hr 15min 48sec was still 1min 33sec behind the world's best, recently set by Japan.

Clutching the trophy, Ma pointed out that, in Asia, only China and Japan had the capacity to compete in long and middle-distances at Atlanta and added that they could together win "glories for the whole of Asia".

Last week, on arrival here, Ma had claimed that most members of his original army had returned, but there was no mention of Wang Jun Xia or Liu Dong. "The departure of my old protégés two years ago taught me a lesson and I came to realize the importance of scientific management," Ma said.

He claims that his victories are a result of high-altitude training and tonics of turtle blood and caterpillar soup, which he has established a company to market in China and abroad. Ma rides an ancient motorcycle sidecar beside his athletes, urging them on.

Crises at the world championships in Stuttgart in 1993, where Ma's family army first burst on to the international scene, called for drug tests, but nothing was proven. Ma's harsh rule, however, was too much for his charges, even though many were used to a spartan lifestyle in the Chinese countryside. Boyfriends and stylish clothes were banned. The young runners also claimed that they needed some time for relaxation and accused him of impounding prize-money which he said he was holding for them only temporarily.

Strong batting sees Sri Lanka gain easy win

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON, IN DELHI

DELHI (Sri Lanka won toss): Sri Lanka (2pts) beat India by six wickets

SRI LANKA beat India on Saturday with an easy that reinforced the general view that

Fowler and McManaman destroy Villa with stunning opening salvo

Liverpool underline title credentials

Liverpool 3
Aston Villa 0
By PETER BALL

ANYONE who thinks the FA Carling Premiership is a two-horse race had better think again. Liverpool gave their own view yesterday, and an emphatic one it was, three goals in the first eight minutes burning off Aston Villa's pretensions.

Liverpool are now two points behind second-placed Manchester United, a further four away from leaders Newcastle, who still have to visit Anfield. Whatever happens at St James' Park tonight, when the top two meet, Liverpool know they have to keep winning and hope for the leaders to slip, but on this form, nothing is beyond them.

They were simply awesome for half an hour yesterday, the pace and incisiveness of their attacks tearing apart the defence which had been the best in the Premiership. After the dour war of attrition of Saturday afternoon's rugby, this was a rich tapestry of

Easter Road rumpus 27
Pearce in doubt 27
Bermudian connection 27

movement and imagination for the Sunday television audience.

Fowler, who took his total to 29 goals for the season, and McManaman were devastating, but it was hard to find a Liverpool player who was less than excellent. Apart from Yorke, Villa, by contrast, were collectively below par — in some cases more than one degree. Draper and Johnson were both missed, but the gaps in the defence which undid the visitors.

Bosnich has not had a happy time against Liverpool this year, his slip playing its part in Villa's only other recent defeat, when Liverpool won at Villa Park in January, and he was badly at fault for the third goal yesterday.

By the half-hour, the Villa supporters were giving their view of their defenders performance, with a mournful chant of "Oooh Ahhh Paul McGrath", even though it would have taken more than the absent Irishman to rescue them. It said everything about Villa's day that Milosevic and Ehiogu were booked in the final two minutes, Milosevic for kicking the ball away, Ehiogu for a scything tackle from behind on Fowler.

Milosevic will now serve a suspension before the Coca-



Collymore and McAtee congratulate McManaman after he had scored the opening goal to begin Liverpool's remarkable demolition of Villa

Cola Cup final, but, for reasons best known to himself, Keith Cooper decided that Ehiogu should be booked for ungentlemanly rather than violent conduct leaving the player on 19 points instead of 21. Unless he is booked playing for the reserves on Tuesday, he will be at risk in Villa's next two matches.

"If what Ehiogu did was only two points, the whole system needs looking at," Brian Little, the Villa manager, said afterwards — the first time a manager has been known to complain that one of his own players was not dealt with firmly enough.

Liverpool could not have had a better start, taking the lead with a splendid goal after 78 seconds. After around 20 passes, Collymore's low cross found Barnes, and he flicked the ball to McManaman who finished his intelligent run with a volley low below Bosnich's right hand.

That put the Kop in full

voice and Liverpool were soon pouring towards them. Collymore had a shot saved, but by the fourth minute, Villa's defence had been breached again. Another intricate series of passes ended with McAtee supplying McManaman who transferred the ball to Fowler. Fowler received it with his back to goal, turned away from Staunton, and beat Bosnich with a rising drive from 30 yards.

Still Liverpool were not finished. Before another four minutes had passed, they scored again. Fowler timed his run to avoid an offside flag and accept Jones' pass down the left. He cut in and, shooting from a narrow angle, beat Bosnich who did no more than deflect the ball on its way into the net.

At 3-0 Villa at last went forward for the first time and Townsend showed that they were taking part in the game with a shot over the bar.

Referee: K Cooper (Pottersbridge).

Liverpool were dominating matters, if one avenue was closed, they simply explored another. After being blocked down the right, the ball went back from McAtee to Wright to James. James switched it to Babb who began an attack down the left which culminated in Fowler just failing to claim a hat-trick as he turned Collymore's cross wide.

Soon both sides lost a central defender and, inevitably, the pace slackened. Villa strove hard to get back into the game, and in the second half, they had more say in things. However, when Milosevic placed his shot with too much care, and Southgate saw a header hit the woodwork, even a consolation was denied them.

LIVERPOOL (4-1-2): D James — M Wright (sub: J Johnson, 31min), J Scales, P Babb — J McAtee, M Thomas, J Barnes, R Jones — S McManaman — R Fowler, S Barnes, J Collymore.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Borch — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, S Staunton (sub: J Joachim, 29) — G Charles, R Simeone, G Fahey, A Townsend, A Wright — D Yorke, S Milosevic.

Referee: K Cooper (Pottersbridge).

Dutchman rekindles Forest fire

Sheffield Wednesday 1
Nottingham Forest 3
By PAT GIBSON

BRYAN ROY's return to form could not have come at a better time for Nottingham Forest. They face Bayern Munich in the first leg of a UEFA Cup quarter-final in Germany tomorrow and Frank Clark, their manager, is much more upbeat about their prospects than he was a week ago.

One of the reasons for Clark's optimism is the resurgence of Roy, a Dutchman, who took so long to recover his old zip after a cartilage operation that Clark began to lose patience with him. "If he had been playing like he was two or three weeks ago, he probably would not be in the team," Clark said, "but he has come good just in time. Having him firing on all cylinders is a big bonus for us."

It will be an even greater boost to Forest if Pearce, their captain, declares himself fit to



Roy: timely return to form

play after being out for six weeks with a calf injury, although Clark rates his chances at no higher than 50-50. "With any other player, I would not even say it was 10-90," he said, "but, because of the skipper's presence, we would like him to be on the field if it is at all possible."

Forest also have worries about Stone, sent home on Saturday morning with a

benign glands, and Woan, who has a sore knee, but they were offset by an impressive team performance altogether too good for a Sheffield Wednesday side heading for relegation trouble after losing for the fifth time in six games.

Last season, Forest beat them 7-1 at Hillsborough and Wednesday supporters must have feared a repeat when they lost Woods, their goalkeeper, with a hip injury at half-time. Forest had taken the lead in the tenth minute when Howe, Woan's replacement, scored with a crisp volley.

Nicol, the stand-in goalkeeper, had not touched the ball when McGregor's Stone's deputy, added an even more spectacular second.

Such adversity strangely galvanised Wednesday into their best spell of the match; stranger still, it was inspired by Waddle, because he might have found himself playing in goal if Nicol had not volunteered for the job. It was Waddle's low cross that enabled Kovacevic to put Wed-

nesday back into the game with a simple tap-in, but Allen, the Forest substitute, laid on the goal that Roy deserved, and that was that.

"One or two things conspired against us today," David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, said. "It is never easy when you lose your goal-keeper."

There was much more to it than that, however. As Clark said: "We all take the gamble of not having a substitute goalkeeper these days and sometimes it backfires, but you could not put either of the goals down to Steve Nicol. I would rather have seen Chris Waddle sitting on the bench all through the game."

Only Pleat can explain why he was sitting there for half of it.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (3-5-2): C Woods, C Waddle, G Jones — P Atherton, J Watt, D Walker — I Nolen, G Hyde (sub: M Pembroke, 48), S Nicol, M Dwyer, G Stone, S Kovacevic, R Humphrey, T O'Gorman, D Kone.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — D Little, A Hesland, S Charles, D Pearce — R McGregor, S Stone (sub: K Black, 67), K Campbell, B Roy.

Referee: G Poll.

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

	Played	Points	Diff	Form	Goal
1 Newcastle	27	61	+27	WWWLD	100
2 Manchester United	27	57	+22	WWWWWW	98
3 Liverpool	28	55	+32	WDMWW	97
4 Aston Villa	28	49	+15	WWWWWW	96
5 Tottenham	28	48	+10	WWWWWW	95
6 Everton	28	45	+14	DWWWW	94
7 Arsenal	28	45	+10	LDWWD	93
8 Chelsea	29	43	+8	WLWWD	92
9 Bolton	28	43	+4	WLWW	91
10 Blackburn	28	42	+9	WLWD	90
11 West Ham	28	39	-6	WWWWL	89
12 Leeds	28	35	-7	WLWW	88
13 Middlesbrough	29	34	-11	LLLDL	87
14 Sheffield Wed	28	34	-9	LWLL	86
15 Wimbledon	28	26	-16	WLWDD	85
16 Coventry	28	26	-16	DWDD	84
17 Manchester City	28	26	-20	DWDD	83
18 Southampton	25	25	-11	WDDLL	82
19 QPR	28	22	-19	LLWW	81
20 Bolton	28	19	-29	LLWW	80
Weekly change				Up	Stayed the same
				Down	

Referee: G Frankland.

Commitment cheers Atkinson

Coventry City 2
West Ham United 2
By NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHEN purists lament the British game's obsession with non-stop goalmouth incident at the expense of sophistication, they presumably have matches like this in mind. Not many people at Highfield Road seemed worried, however — not even the managers, for whom this type of game is usually more life-threatening than life-enhancing.

"There cannot be any sense of despondency after a game like that," Ron Atkinson, the Coventry City manager, said. "We played with drive and commitment to the cause. I have to be satisfied. If we play like that for the rest of the season, we will have plenty in hand."

Plenty more in the goals-

against column, too, he might have added. His defence's opening gambit was a splendid piece of misunderstanding

that saw Shaw heading out of Ogrizovic's hands. The goalkeeper then followed a fine save from Hughes' shot with a fumble that led to Cottee scoring after a bout of head tennis, with only one minute on the clock.

Noel Whelan, of Coventry, a strong candidate for bargain of the season, soon countered with a cross that was volleyed home by Salako and a well-judged lob over Miklosko. Daish and Jess, Atkinson's most recent signings, fared less well. Neither has the measure of the FA Carling Premiership yet; Daish was frequently exposed in the first half, Jess often looked lost.

Ogrizovic's Jekyll and Hyde

performance continued as he saved Dowie's close-range header, then flapped at another corner; the ball fell to Rieper, who finished with relish. The generosity of Coventry's defence offered their goalkeeper several opportunities to make amends as Cottee, Bilel and Potts were allowed free shots.

After such a first half, managers usually tighten things up. Atkinson, perversely, replaced Burrows, a full-back, with Williams, a midfield player, and it nearly paid off. Williams' volley against the foot of a post was the nearest that either side came to a winner, although it was not for lack of trying.

Despite the dropped points, both managers felt positive



Whelan: bargain buy

R

FOOTBALL 25

Oldham's frantic late effort founders

Oldham Athletic 1
Tranmere Rovers 2

By DAVID MADDOCK

FOUR, four, two, long, long ball; dead, dead, boring. For three-quarters of this contest, two tediously predictable sides ploughed their depressingly English furrow, rigid formations and rigid imaginations boring everyone rigid.

Tranmere Rovers were the more proficient. It was enough, though, to give them a regulation two-goal lead from a depressingly routine passage of play. Then, after 71 minutes, Oldham Athletic pulled off the apparently impossible to score, and set up a conclusion that at last provided some excitement.

It was the entertainment that comes from a side that cannot score suddenly given heart against a team that cannot defend — vaudeville, but it was better than nothing. Tranmere had won one of their 15 matches before this, Oldham had scored five goals in their previous 11 games. Tranmere went to pieces when they conceded a goal, but still managed to cling on as Oldham could not find the net.

Tranmere at least managed to halt their recent freefall down the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, largely through the virtues of work-rate and experience, in the shape of Aldridge and Nevin. The latter produced a crisp volley to opening the scoring after 19 minutes. Aldridge, at 37, then showed that age has not blunted his appetite with a typically precise sidefoot shot after the Oldham defence allowed a cross by Nevin to reach him in the six-yard box on 52 minutes.

They could have scored more but for the reflexes of Gerrard, the Cumbrian goalkeeper. Oldham, for their part, continued to play away in the same old way and a goal finally came when Graham made an earlier error with a shot that looped high into the net. There ensued the usual of Tranmere trying to throw away their winning position, and Oldham generously refusing the offer, spurning three simple opportunities in the final, frantic minutes.

OLDSHAM ATHLETIC (4-4-2): P Gerrard, C Makin, R Graham, S Redmond, C Gerrard (sub: A Hughes, 61min) — G Hall (sub: S Barker, 64min), D Richardson, G Ongwale, D Kone, N Bell, N Williams, N Woods, 89.

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-4-2): D Coyle — A Thomas, G Stevens, S Garrett, A Rogers (sub: D Higgins, 89) — P Nevin, G Branigan (sub: G Williams, 61), G Brannigan (sub: G Bennett, 87), D Aldridge, 87.

Referee: G Frankland.

Grimsby gremlins give Reid assistance

Grimsby Town 0
Sunderland 4

By LOUISE TAYLOR

ALTHOUGH slightly flattened by the scoreline, Sunderland significantly enhanced their promotion hopes at a breezy, muddy Blundell Park yesterday.

Assisted by some chronic misunderstandings between Grimsby's goalkeeper and his defence they may have been, but Peter Reid's side emphatically cemented their second place in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division.

Six points behind Derby County with a game in hand, they are thus eagerly anticipating the leaders' visit to Wearside on Saturday.

On Humberside Sunderland were ahead ten minutes before half-time, Russell's tight, clever turn and drag back leaving Ball with the simple task of a close range tap-in.

Sunderland, however, initially had plenty of reason to be grateful when, early in the second half, the referee waved away good-looking Grimsby appeals for handball. Sunderland then capitalised in the 71st minute when Russell rolled the ball into an empty net following a collision between Crichton, the Grimsby keeper, and Warner, one of his central defenders, on the edge of the area.

Warner required treatment for some minutes afterwards, and Sunderland then rubbed salt into his and Grimsby's wounds with two goals in the dying minutes from Phil Moore and Bridges, who had come on as a substitute. Grimsby's goal-keepers were mighty grateful when, early in the second half, the referee waved away good-looking Grimsby appeals for handball. Sunderland then capitalised in the 71st minute when Russell rolled the ball into an empty net following a collision between Crichton, the Grimsby keeper, and Warner, one of his central defenders, on the edge of the area.

Muscular Ireland make visitors pay for their mistakes

Wales undermined by errors

Ireland 30
Wales 17

FROM GERALD DAVIES
IN DUBLIN

BOTH teams entered this contest in need of what Murray Kidd, the Ireland coach, referred to as "positive reinforcement". Whatever other merits a team may show — honesty, graft or ambitious fancy — it hardly matters unless a win can be secured now and again.

For Ireland and Wales, in their present travails, it is, indeed, a matter of "now and again". That the elusive victory should have been registered by Ireland in a match of mostly erratic yet often exciting movement will give them only momentary satisfaction. There is, for them, something to build on, even if it is just a boost of their morale before they face England.

Wales cannot enjoy even that consolation, nor the compensation of having scored the best tries of the afternoon. Once more, they have to find the resolve to drag themselves up by their bootstraps to prepare for France in

two weeks' time and the grievous prospect of a whitewash for the second consecutive season. There is no quiet haven for them.

The Ireland pack gave a vigorous, muscular performance, harrying the opposition, capitalising on the many mistakes to which Wales were prone and generally causing the kind of havoc for which they are famed. Ireland's first tries, by Geoghegan and Woods, came largely from errors in Wales's judgment.

They won despite having less of the game than Wales in terms of territory and possession. They had the knack of lifting the pace when it was necessary and, more importantly, knowing where to place the ball to inflict the greatest damage. A success ratio of two-to-one in the lineout should have provided Wales with a comfortable platform, but they rarely matched what Ireland achieved with far less.

The forwards were at the heart of the matter. Costello had a fine match in a back row, who found that their toll in the loose was well supported by Fulcher and Davidson from the second row. Wallace found the necessary drive

FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

whenever the try-line beckoned.

There was cohesion in their efforts that was lacking in Wales's. "We played to our game plan," Jonathan Humphreys, the Wales captain, said, "but we made too many mistakes in playing it." Encapsulated in those remarks is the story of Wales's season.

There were errors in handling and of judgment, as when Ieuan Evans and Leigh Davies began promising counter-attacks only for the vital pass to go astray or be delayed. From four penetrating runs by Leigh Davies in midfield, which spread-eagled the home team's defence, only once did a try result. Evans's first, Hemi Taylor created

chances, too, but was left isolated. In addition, Wales were profligate in the 21 penalties and free kicks that they gave away. Their scrummage, it seemed, was under permanent pressure.

There was more. Arwel Thomas had the kind of game that will chill his bones in years to come. Justin Thomas suffered at Twickenham, but it was his namesake's turn on Saturday. The young stand-off half can console himself, as Gareth Edwards said on Saturday evening, that such days have visited all of us: 1970 is a year that he would like to forget. That, too, was at Lansdowne Road. It is how you come to terms with it that matters.

Whatever Thomas did on Saturday seemed to go awry. He failed to pass when Wales broke clear of defence after Mason's long-range penalty. He misjudged his first penalty, as he did with an attempted dropped goal later on, and, when his line kick fell short to allow Woods his juggling run for the second try, it was clear that it was not to be Thomas's afternoon.

That mistake followed Geoghegan's try, after Proctor

failed to cover Humphreys's teasing chip to the corner. In between, after Leigh Davies's brilliant break, Evans had scored and Thomas converted to give Wales the lead, but Mason's penalty goal soon restored it to Ireland.

Thomas and Mason exchanged penalty goals before the most breathtaking run of the afternoon led to Evans's second try, which Thomas again converted. At 18-17, Wales might have turned the tables, but Ireland seemed to have the greater hunger and killed off Wales with tries by Fulcher and Corkery.

SCORERS: Ireland: tries, Geoghegan, Woods, Fulcher, Corkery, Converno, Mason (2). Penalty goals: Mason (2), Wales: tries, Evans (2); conversions: A Thomas (2). Penalty goal: A Thomas.

IRLAND: S O'Brien, D Gough, S P Geoghegan, M Bell (Mordom), M Field (Merton), N K P J Woods (Blastron), C O'Leary, D G Humphreys (Llanelli), Ieuan Evans (Haverfordwest), Ieuan Evans (captain), N J Poplewell (Neath), A T H Costello (Northampton), S Woods (Cardiff), G J D Corkery (Cork Constitution), G M Fulcher (Cork), J W Davidson (Dunoon), V D McBride (Merton), V C Williams (Cardiff), D G Lewis (Cardiff).

WALES: W J Thomas (Llanelli); I Evans (Llanelli), L B Davies (Neath), N G Davies (Llanelli), W T Proctor (Llanelli); A C Thomas (Llanelli), G J D Corkery (Cork Constitution), P Lewis (Cardiff), M Humphreys (Cardiff), captain, J D Davies (Neath), E W Lewis (Cardiff), G O Devellwyn (Neath), D Jones (Cardiff), R G Jones (Llanelli), H T Taylor (Cardiff).

Referee: D Mene (France)



Howley, the Wales scrum half, eludes the clutches of Fulcher to launch an attack

Fall of Thomas gives Jenkins a foot in the door

JOHN HOPKINS

At Lansdowne Road

If one book can furnish a room, can two Thomases make a rugby team? Hitherto there had been no doubt that the young Thomases — William Justin Lloyd, at full back, and Arwel Camber, at stand-off half — were bulwarks of Wales's exciting team. Exuberant young men, whose combined age totals 45, they are the apprentices whose talents would surely have blossomed fully in time to adorn Wales's new stadium in the 1999 World Cup.

The youthful promise of Justin has not been one whit diminished. The No 15 with the back as straight as a guardsman's did about as much as could be expected of him on an afternoon when Ireland's rugby rediscovered the meaning of rumbustiousness. Two brave catches were reminiscent of J. P. R. Williams: for a Wales full back to have his courage likened to that particular predecessor, it is praise indeed.

Sadly, though, beneath the gaze of Barry John and Phil Bennett, two of the greatest men to wear the red shirt with No 10 on the back, Arwel had his comeuppance. Once, he thought he could walk on water; now, it looked as though his legs had turned to jelly. Two of his kicks led to tries by Ireland. His punts had none of their usual trajectory: his kicks at goal, from the ground and from hand, wobbled woefully left and low. They appeared, in fact, as if they were being forced down towards the ground by the weight of public expectation.

Hail Arwel, the frail-looking, fresh-faced stand-off who constantly looks as unconcerned as if he were playing a game of touch-rugby on the beach. For now, though, it is time, surely, for Wales to return to the known values of Neil Jenkins, the jugs-eared Pontypridd stand-off.

Thomas's precocious talents had presented a contrast with those of Jenkins. Thomas ran, looked at ease with the ball in his hand, showed youthful exuberance. Wales have a new coach and are

committed to a handling game and Thomas appears to be the man to orchestrate it. For too long, Jenkins had kicked, with remarkable accuracy, admittedly, and tackled with a courage that outweighed his own pounds and ounces, and run, from time to time. His reputation was that of a kicker, nonetheless.

In Wales, you were for Thomas or for Jenkins, just as, in England not so long ago, you were for Stuart Barnes or for Rob Andrew. Arwel was unfettered by tradition and dogma. He was a Cavalier, Jenkins a Roundhead. Thomas represented the romanticism of Welsh rugby. Jenkins the pragmatism.

"Arwel learnt a lot about decision-making and the pressure of international rugby," Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, said on Saturday. "He is still very young and has to learn how to control a game." Bowring, patently a kind man and able to understand what Thomas had just been through, bent over backwards to be understanding, not to pile any more pressure on the young man's shoulders. What he did not say was as revealing as what he said.

Jenkins must return for the match against France on March 16. Is this, then, a victory for the dark forces and steely eyes of the pragmatists over the romantics? Hardly. Thomas might have survived for one more match were there not such an outstanding replacement in Jenkins, whose kicking has so often helped to stop Wales's downward plunge these past few years.

To give Thomas one more chance would be to be left open to charges of naivete. For three caps, he has often delighted, but, sadly, there has been an increasing rate of errors, culminating in a performance that he will want to forget as quickly as possible. Lugubrious Welsh voices were heard to mutter that he should feign an injury and leave the field.

So let us say farewell to Arwel Thomas. It is just for now, it is not for ever.

King crowns success

ENGLAND completed a handsome treble in L'Aquila on Saturday, a 22-19 success in the A international over Italy going alongside victories in Scotland by the senior and student teams (David Hands writes). Yet the Italians, stiffened by the presence of eight capped players — and by memories of their rousing win over Scotland in January — forced them all the way.

Indeed, had Scannavaca converted a late penalty, Italy could have earned a draw, although Peter Rossborough, the England manager, regretted his team's inability to take all its opportunities.

Troncon, the experienced Italy scrum half, rivalled Alex King, who scored 17 points for

England, as man of the match. Andy Gomarsall, the Wasps scrum half, was in lively form, too, and capitalised with England's try from a tapped penalty.

SCORERS: Italy: A: Try: Paganini, Conversion: Scannavaca; A: Try: Gomarsall, Conversion: King; Penalties: (5). ENGLAND: A: X. Perelli (Forza), M Perziano (Carrara), G Filizola (Carrara), P Dall'Osso (Carrara), Vassalli (Forzoli), A Troncon (Trevico, captain), A Cimmarosa (L'Aquila), G de Carlo (Carrara), S Mazzanti (Gubbio), G Gonnelli (Marti), P Alessandro (Forza), D Scaglia (Trevico), R Rampazzi (Padova), J Gori (Carrara).

ENGLAND: A: P. Hull (Bristol), D O'Leary (Harlequins), P. Morsah (Harlequins), A Adesanya (Bam), A. King (Bristol University), A. Gomarsall (Wasps), K Yalos (Bath), P. Gammie (Gloucester), R Hardwick (Coventry), G Stretton (Harlequins), D Sims (Gloucester), J Pocock (Salford). Referee: G. M. Greenwood (Harrow). 70m. Referee: H. Roth (Germany).



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Prop in danger of suspension after Murrayfield victory built on strength of Richards

Leonard blow mars England's achievement

Scotland 9
England 18
By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S pleasure at halting Scotland's charge towards a fourth grand slam at Murrayfield on Saturday was soured yesterday: Jason Leonard, the Harlequins prop, has been cited by the Scottish Rugby Football Union (SRFU) for punching Rob Wainwright and the complaint will be referred to Jacky Laurans, of France the independent match commissioner.

There have already been two suspensions on video evidence this season, one self-inflicted by France on Richard Dourthe, the other by the match commissioner at the France v Ireland game which resulted in a ban for Peter Clohessy, of Ireland. Therefore, Leonard stands in danger of a punishment that would keep him out of England's final five nations' championship match, against Ireland on March 16.

FIVE NATIONS'



RESULTS: France 15 England 12, Ireland 10; Scotland 16; England 21; Wales 15; France 19; Ireland 14; France 45; Ireland 10; Scotland 16; Wales 30; Wales 17; Scotland 8; England 18
REMAINING MATCHES: March 16: England v Ireland, Wales v France.

A Rugby Football Union (RFU) spokesman said that there had been no opportunity to study the video and no indication of any complaint had arisen immediately after the match; but the incident, midway through the first half, was captured on camera and left Wainwright, the Scotland captain, requiring treatment with much of the team organisation passing to Gregor Townsend, the vice-captain, and Ian Smith.

Wainwright had no comment to make yesterday but Jim Telfer, the team manager, and Allan Hosie, the SRFU laws convenor, felt obliged to act after seeing the video. It is unlikely that any decision will be taken until midweek, by which time the RFU and Laurans will also have seen the evidence.

Whatever the outcome, the gulf has been removed from England's gingerbread, though the challenge implicit in their success remains. Will they be content to try to grasp a triple crown or will they try to retain the championship by scoring as many points as possible against Ireland at Twickenham?

If it is the latter, then even England cannot rely on Paul Grayson to kick enough penalty goals. They will have to

score tries by playing the positive rugby that has been Scotland's trade mark this season – until England, in general, and Dean Richards, in particular, squeezed the life out of their ambition.

France must now be favoured to win the title thanks to the points that they scored against Ireland. They will take an advantage of 33 into their meeting in Cardiff with Wales while England have a more modest 12. Victory for either side, in yet another fascinating denouement to the championship, will leave Scotland bypassed, their cupboard bare.

Minutes after the game on Saturday was over, Wainwright apologised to the Scottish nation for his team's failure. He had no need. His players had already achieved far more than most had predicted and in a manner that brought more than just the Scots to their feet.

However, in years to come, Scottish mothers may warn their recalcitrant children that if they do not behave at play, "Deano will take your ball away and you will never get it back". Richards, never on a losing side against Scotland, has become their bogeyman and his pleasure at England's victory in the Royal Bank international was apparent even in that unemotional man.

All this season, Richards has raged – privately, because that is the way he is – at what he believes to be England's departure from their traditional strengths. Had England lost at Murrayfield, he would have been the most convenient of scapegoats; instead, he brought shape and cohesion to his team and though, with two minutes remaining, he limped off with a twisted knee, he is not expected to miss the game with Ireland.

Will this game, though, prove the catharsis that England need to purge themselves of the doubts that have hung over the season and send them out, reinvigorated, against Ireland? In 1988, they won a mess of a match 9-6 at Murrayfield which paved the way for a 35-3, sixty demolition of Ireland; this time, the prize of the championship is greater, the team more experienced.

If that is to happen again, England will have to use their backs. "I would like Jerry Guscott's contract, he doesn't seem to do much for his money," David Johnston muttered ill-advisedly at the post-match conference. The disappointment felt by Johnston, a creative centre himself and now coach to the Scotland backs, is understandable after 80 minutes of stifling rugby when one side would not play a fluent game and the other side could not.

Yet the more experienced Telfer knew exactly what to expect and wisely forbore to become involved in recriminations. Instead, he concentrated on his own team's deficiencies. "A number of our players showed a fair amount of inexperience," he said.

Though it took some time to gain full working order, the Scotland lineout worked efficiently enough to establish a 25-18 advantage, but either they kept ball in hand against an inspired defence or the side could not.

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That is the price of placing the emotional health of the nation on the shoulders of a rugby pack; of over-estimating the capabilities of a developing new team on the strength of three victories, two against average opposition.

This was, after all, just a

rugby match. Scottish sup-

porters should have buried

their fallen expectations, gathered up their injured optimism and stolen quietly away to

prepare for another day.

Instead, there was the sound

of David Johnston, their backs

coach, and the Scottish press

taunting Jack Rowell, the Eng-

land manager, with accusations

of not playing a running, ad-

venturous game.

Johnston sourly alleged that

Guscott "doesn't seem to do

much for his money", while

Telfer was cajoled into saying

that England's possession

"wasn't as sweet as you would

have wanted". So what?

The rational editorial in *The*

Scotsman on Saturday had

stated: "In unguarded mo-

ments, we say we want to win

with style ... [that] winning is

with style

Simple dressing that flies in the face of temptation

I have, in my time, tied every kind of dry fly known to God and man and a few possibly not known to either, but, when March comes and a new trout season begins, I take the minimalist approach. I know that three simple dressings will meet most of my needs, and it is on these that my effort goes.

This is not to deny the fascinations of the fly-dresser's art or to suggest that other patterns sometimes are not useful. Imitative fly design is one of angling's highest skills and I have spent years trying to improve my own. Mayflies will always be needed on mayfly waters, daddy-long-legs will often come in handy for drawing up fish in lakes on summer days.

A couple of brighter flies — always including something in red — can also be essential on lakes, not least because there is no current on a lake to take the fly to the fish and so visibility must be considered as a means of attracting the fish to the fly.

But, beyond that, all the dry flies I carry can be contained in a couple of plastic tubes that film comes in. One of them contains little brown jobs, the other contains little black jobs and, on rivers, I would be well-armed with these alone.

For all the apparent handicaps of such an approach, consider, as always, the fish. It is lying some way below the surface, looking up. It recognises most flies by the tiny pinpoints of light where the insect's feet or body touch the

surface. The fish knows how big these pinpoint patterns are: they are similar in size to the impressions made by every natural fly it has ever seen. These sizes — the occasional oddity excepted — are much of a muddiness and can be imitated on hook sizes 18 to 12.

The fish also knows what colour natural flies are because the range is so limited. An unalarmed trout that is feeding at the surface does not agonise over every fly it takes. If it did, the hatch would be over and the fish would be one day nearer to death by starvation. If the feeding fish sees something of familiar size and colour and it has not been alarmed, there is a chance it will rise.

Many flies are black, from



Brian Clarke says there is no need to cast around as a new trout season begins

the minute and infuriating smuts to the black gnats. A plain black fly imitates these in all essentials in sizes 18 and 16. There is only one large black fly and that is the Hawthorn. The Hawthorn fly — it is a terrestrial insect that gets blown onto the water — appears from the middle of April to the middle of May. Then, the same dressing as above, on size 14 and even size 12, will do the job.

The other common fly which the trout take off the surface are the various olives and sedges. The typical colour

of a newly-hatched olive is drab green. The sedges, typically, are brown.

I have not found trout feeding on hatching olives to be overly fussy about pattern — at least on rivers. The olives often hatch in vast numbers and trout feeding on them seem programmed to respond to light pattern alone. Nor, as a rule, have I found trout feeding on sedges to be overly concerned about patterns. And so I use a sedge pattern with a green-brown seal's fur body to imitate the sedges and the same fly, in slightly small-

er sizes, to imitate the olives. I use the sedge pattern when olives are on the water because the fish seem untroubled by the difference. And the sedge floats longer than an olive dressing would.

There is an important point about the way these first two flies are fished. Mostly, I would dunk my dry flies in float and chuck them out so that they float high and dry on the top. There are times, however, when it is necessary to fish them not on the surface film, but in it. The fish indicate these times, by not taking. Then I grease only the top and back of the fly so that it settles well down into the surface before stopping. Takes to dry flies right on top can be splashy affairs. Takes to dry flies fished in the

surface can be very confident — presumably because the fish takes as though eating a dead or dying fly.

There is another, quite distinct dressing in my rub for little brown jobs. It imitates the olive spinners. Most olive spinners have sherry-brown bodies and clear wings that lie flat on the water, out to either side. Being clear, these wings allow light to pass through them from above, and so the brownish body of the fly and the pools of light transmitted by the wings are visible to the trout below.

The light pattern the natural spinner makes is very different to the pattern created by my artificial sedge and so I carry a specific dressing to imitate it. The tails are conventional, the body is made

from the same green-brown seal's fur mixture as the sedge, tied slimly, and the wings are made from a single, narrow strip of polythene cut from a kitchen bag. This strip is tied in the middle across the hookshank just behind the eye and it completes a dressing that is a dead-ringer for the natural insect. A tiny nick at the base of each wing will stop the fly spinning during the cast and kinking the leader.

This fly lies naturally flush in the surface film and the rise to it as the natural spinner, is a subliminal sip. It completes, when accurately cast, a deadly trio that will see many a season through.

■ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

Surprise success for North Yorkshire at cross country championships

New peak for Giggleswick fell runners

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE number of young people running cross country is diminishing, according to Bob Ashwood, the Great Britain team coach. If only there were more breeding grounds like Giggleswick School.

Giggleswick is a small mixed boarding school on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales national park, where hockey and rugby are the main sports, but where cross country is pushing itself forward. "It is the school's most successful sport in terms of county representation," Alastair Scholey, the master in charge of cross country, said.

If they are giggling at Giggleswick today, why not?

SPORT

IN SCHOOLS

Schools results 33

Charlotte Sanderson, one of its pupils, played a vital part in a momentous North Yorkshire victory at the TSB English Schools championships in Weymouth on Saturday. Nobody could remember North Yorkshire winning a team title before.

Sanderson was twelfth among 296 runners in the senior girls' race. Her prominence was as much a surprise as the second place secured by Victoria Wilkinson. With Karen Duke sixth, North Yorkshire won by 132 points.

"We did not expect to finish in the top three," Gwen Taylor Hall, the North Yorkshire team manager, said. Now, Sanderson can only inspire others at Giggleswick which, from a squad of only 26 runners, provided more of the North Yorkshire squad than any other school.

A first for Giggleswick and a first for the fire brigade.

Freak blow rules out Gourlay

BY DAVID RYHS JONES

DAVID GOURLAY Jr, the recently crowned world indoor bowls champion, has had to withdraw from the British Isles indoor championships in Auchenleck today after being injured in yesterday's Scottish League Cup final at Glasgow's West of Scotland Indoor Bowls Club.

In a thrilling final, Gourlay's Prestwick team tied with Turriff, 89-89, at close of play, but collected 11 shots to three on the extra end to win, 100-92.

Early in the match a brilliant delivery from the 29-year-old Gourlay was greeted by his team-mates with such abandoned delight that his right arm was badly twisted in the football-style skirmish.

"I managed to spring the jacks to make four shots," Gourlay said, "then I was mobbed by my rink and I think it must have been Gavin Campbell, my No 3, who wrenched my arm in his excitement."

His arm in a sling, Gourlay was on painkillers last night and had arranged for Robert McCulloch, the former Scotland captain, to take his place in the Prestwick quartet for this morning's semi-finals of the British Isles fours championship.



Brindle, a leading mountain biker, makes good strides in the English Schools cross country championships. Photograph: André Camara

Whoever heard of firefighters being called to a cross country course? It happened when the water supply for the toilets and showers ran low and the hoses were needed. The course could have done with some water, too.

Weymouth offered a flat course, not a Giggleswick course. "Most of the training is done on the surrounding fells, including runs over the Three Peaks," Scholey said. "They all choose to do it. Nobody is bullied into it." Sanderson is inspired by the scenery. "It is another world up in the hills, brilliant," she said.

The group goes out three times a week. "Typically, most

of these runs finish with tea and carrot cake at a local cafe," Scholey said. "The nearest tartan track is more than 30 miles away and the school's grass track spends two terms as a rugby or soccer pitch."

Sanderson said: "One of the reasons we do well is because we have fun." Mathew Brindle, cannot resist Giggleswick's cross country charms, though mountain biking is his main sport. He is among the leading young mountain bikers in the north of England, but his cross country is catching up.

After placing 205th in the senior boys' race last year, Brindle was aiming for a

finish in the top 100 this time. He came 68th on a course that was "a bit flat for me". His sights are fixed on making the British junior fell running team this year.

The richness of the English Schools mixture it its blend of champions and triers. Kain Stone, from Devon, and Amy Waterlow, from Cheshire, won the senior titles and were as capable of articulating their comments as they were in being exeter.

Waterlow had the option to compete in the British trials for the world championships yesterday, but, torn between the two, opted for Weymouth. "People remember who won the English Schools," Water-

low said. "It stays with you for a long time."

Stone, whose 6ft 1in frame looks impressive in flight, seized his opportunity when circled by reporters, he complained that his local council had rejected proposals for a new track in Torquay. He does not mind his "kind of weird name" — his siblings are Kelvin and Kadie — but he does object to his nearest track being in Exeter.

Among the triers was Sarah Dugdale, of North Yorkshire, eleventh in the intermediate girls' race. On Friday, she was at the dentist having an abscess removed, with nothing to relieve the pain in case she was called for a drugs test. For

South Yorkshire, Idris Ahmed was seventh in the intermediate boys' event after losing a shoe early on.

Jackie Hogan, of North Yorkshire, looked glum after finishing fifth among the intermediate girls, but how she smiled when told that Kelly Holmes had filled that position the last time the championships were in Weymouth.

If there was a disappointment, it was the failure of Martina Navratilova to line up with the intermediate girls, as per the programme, for Dorset. "She did not want to run," Caroline Lewis, the Dorset team manager, said — and she used to be so good on grass.

Goss prepares to make a small advance

Edward Gorman
meets a former
Marine ready for
war with France

cost. Goss is operating on around £350,000, compared to French budgets of up to £2 million. More important is the very large discrepancy in weight over the two sizes. While a 60ft boat might weigh in at around 9 tons, Goss's 50ft monohull, *Aqua Quorum*, will be just 4.5 to 5 tons, a reflection of its much smaller volume.

The Vendée Globe non-stop round-the-world race is the most gruelling of single-handed yachting challenges. Goss, once a member of the elite Commacchio company in the Marines, on permanent alert for oil-rig hijacks, speaks of it as "not a series of battles, but a war".

On a shoestring budget, this former British Steel Challenge skipper, who once slept on deck all the way across the Atlantic during a single-handed race, has thrown himself into an audacious attempt to try to wrest the Vendée Globe from the French. They have won it both times it has been staged and have long since taken over from the British as the leading exponents of solo offshore sailing.

The Goss approach is daring and unconventional. While most of the 15 or so competitors who will muster at the start line at Les Sables d'Olonne, north of La Rochelle, in November will do so in the biggest boats allowed under the rules — 60ft — Goss has opted for a 50ft craft, the shortest length permitted.

The choice is based partly

on most Vendée Globe yachts and have opted for a hydraulically-controlled swing keel complemented by dagger boards, which are usually associated with multihulls.

Extraordinary care has been taken to save weight. The hull is being constructed from a light but tough ailex foam core with laminates of kevlar and carbon. There will be no roller furling system on the two headsails and no permanent bowsprit. Upwind, a spinaker pole will take its place. Even the weight of Goss's personal possessions and food for the four-and-a-half month journey have been taken into account in the design.

Although the budget is small the project has a winning feel about it. Apart from the main sponsor, Aqua Quorum, Goss's backers include BT, Caltel Communications and 3M, but he still needs another £150,000, despite having sold his house. *Aqua Quorum*, which will be launched in April, is being

built in Plymouth by a team led by Gary Vennin, who has a number of top racing hulls behind him, including the former *Whibread maxi Rothmans* and the 60ft multihull *Sebago*. The keel has been designed by Martin Smyth, who designed the nose section of Concorde, while Thompson has an long pedigree in innovative offshore racing and multihull design.

Goss's enthusiasm for what is the realisation of nearly ten years of planning comes across loud and clear. "We're up against the world's best from our little shed in Cornwall," he said. "The French don't own single-handed sailing. We're going to take them on and win."

He acknowledged that some will view his challenge with scepticism because of the unusual design and limited funding. "What we're trying to do is completely off the wall to a lot of people. I'm sure some of them in the sailing community will just laugh at us but we are going to give it a shot. We have enough confidence to bite the bullet and go for it," he said.

It is a view shared by the whole team working with him. "It's a bit of a gamble. I suppose, doing something like this, but you've got to do it," Vennin said.

"If you just stick to the boring old ways, you're not going to develop at all."



Goss oversees the construction of his remarkable round-the-world yacht in Plymouth

Downing remain in charge

DOWNING rowed over to complete a hat-trick at the head of the men's divisions in the Cambridge University Lent rowing races. Christ's were within four feet of Downing's stern when caught by Caius at the Railings. 1st and 3rd Trinity won their oars when they topped Lady Margaret at Morley's Holt with their fourth bump of the week. Trinity Hall held off Emmanuel to claim their first women's headship.

ORIEL and Osler House retained the headships of the men's and women's first divisions of the Oxford University Torpids, which ended on Saturday and Thursday, and Pembroke, on the last two days, never got close enough to mount a serious challenge to Oriel, and Osler finished well clear of New College. St Catherine's moved up to second place after making three bumps.

Men	Feb 28	Mar 1	2
I ORIEL	X	X	
BRASENOSE	X	X	
CHRIST'S	X	X	
CARISBROOK	X	X	
CHRISTIAN	X	X	
EMANUEL	X	X	
1ST & 3RD TRINITY	X	X	
CHRIST CHURCH	X	X	
MAGDALENE	X	X	
GILDED	X	X	
GRANTHAM	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S II	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S III	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S IV	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S V	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S VI	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S VII	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S VIII	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S IX	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S X	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XI	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XII	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XIII	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XIV	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XV	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XVI	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XVII	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XVIII	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XVIX	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XX	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XXI	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XXII	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XXIII	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XXIV	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XXV	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XXVI	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XXVII	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XXVIII	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XXIX	X	X	
GRANTHAM'S XXX	X	X	

Nicholson places Festival confidence in Johnson

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

THE remarkable success of Richard Johnson as the most promising young jockey of the year was put into splendid context yesterday by David Nicholson — with words backed up by action.

"He's only 18," the champion jumps trainer said "but I think Peter Scudamore, Richard Dunwoody and Adrian Maguire would have been delighted to have been riding as well at that age."

Nicholson should know. During the 1980s and 1990s the three illustrious riders have served as stable jockey to "the Duke" and gone on to claim most of National Hunt's prizes.

With Maguire now ruled out of next week's Cheltenham Festival with a fractured collar-bone, Nicholson had no hesitation in putting his young conditional jockey on several of the stable stars at Jackdaws Castle, despite his relative lack of experience. "Richard could have nine or ten rides for me at Cheltenham," he disclosed.

Such confidence in the teenager, who rode his first winner little more than a year ago, is shared by Noel Chance, trainer of Mr Mulligan, the hot favourite for the Sun Alliance Chase. Despite receiving approaches from agents repre-

senting the top jockeys in the land, the Lambourn trainer has not entertained replacing Johnson on his impressive eight-year-old chestnut.

Since moving from Ireland to Berkshire, Chance has used Johnson when available and from the moment he partnered his first runner, Monty Royale, to a 101 success at Market Rasen last June the partnership has gone from strength to strength.

Chance paid his tribute: "He's cool and always has his horse in the right place during a race, which is a talent in itself. He has never once got beaten on a horse that he should have won on and he's won a couple he had no right to win. When I walk into the

Sound Man impresses

SOUND MAN looked to have booked his Cheltenham ticket after satisfactorily coming through a post-racing workout at Leopardstown yesterday.

The centre of an injury scare last week, Sound Man impressed in a gallop with his stable companion, Ventana Canyon, and is likely to outlast the two of them on the new favourite, Viking.

Hopes increase for Parker

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

IT IS early days to be talking about national riders' championships, unless you live north of Scotch Corner. The sport's northern area has not seen a national champion for 23 years since Mabel Forrest won the women's title in 1973, so there is understandable excitement about the prospect of Andrew Parker winning the men's event this year.

Riding at the Tynedale meeting at Corbridge in Northumberland on Saturday, he began with a winner on Howayman in the confined, but then suffered two

falls and a submission from the odds-on Drakewrath and Roly Prior, before Jimmy River showed that age is telling when pulled up in the men's open.

Parker would have loved to swap places on the day with Thomas Scott, who rode the first treble of his long career. Scott, pony-tailed, ear-studded and built of the material used in Hadrian's Wall, won the open on Bow Handy Man, added to that score on Jayandouboule and Overstep and walked away from a last-rate fall on Whatoupa.

Parker was philosophical about his misfortune and took heart that his nearest rival, Paul Hacking, could manage just one victory, on Celtic Spark, at Parham.

Hacking moved to six winners, five behind Parker, while Alastair Crow maintained a steady course with the six to the Six WWYm's fixture on Korbell and Scally Muire.

Alison Dare continued her good start to the season with a treble at that meeting, but Polly Curling was concussed after Strong Tarquin fell at the Beaufort.

In a nutshell, HI4 places the burden of reporting "anything that may have adversely affected the performance in a race of any horse they train" squarely upon the trainer.

There follows a list of 12 possible examples which should be reported, followed by a catch-all clause — "this list is not exhaustive" and any other circumstance which has not been included "must be the subject of a report".

Well, exhaustive the list is not. It would have been compiled by any ten-year-old graduate of the Pony Club "C" Test. Even Jack Hylton, a famed impresario and band-leader, but not noted for his in-depth knowledge of horse racing, could think up 52 "trainers' excuses" to decorate his Christmas card to his trainers, one for each week in

the year.

At least two items on the list, "equipment failure" and "bit slipped through the mouth", far from adversely affecting the running of a

horse could well convert a blantant non-trier into a combatant winner.

It is typical of the sort of "bossy boots" adjutant's regulation that in former times ensured that its author was shot in the back by his own men the first time he went over the top. Yet the whole idiotic scheme depends for its success on the co-operation of the troops: i.e. trainers.

If the instruction is finally implemented, I envisage ap-



Johnson retains the ride on Mr Mulligan, unbeaten in five outings this term, in the Sun Alliance Chase

New instruction looks wide open to trainers' excuses

A more telling argument for a trainer's presence on the British Horseracing Board (BHB) than the publication of the Jockey Club instruction HI4, it would be hard to imagine.

This misbegotten piece of legislation signals the final transfer of power in the administration from practical racing men to the technocrats in the office.

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the burden of reporting "anything that may have adversely affected the performance in a race of any horse they train" squarely upon the trainer. There follows a list of 12 possible examples which should be reported, followed by a catch-all clause — "this list is not exhaustive" and any other circumstance which has not been included "must be the subject of a report".

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Far from being a prop to make up for the apparent incompetence of the officials at present employed to do the job, this regulation will constitute a charter for non-triers similar to that already malfunctioning in Ireland.

Can anyone seriously believe that a trainer, whose horse has bled or finished lame and escaped the notice of the stipes, the vets and, more importantly, the bloodstock agents, would voluntarily jeopardise the sale of the horse by making its unsoundness public?

It surely won't be long before we have an update to the Sid Forrester story. This old-time trainer, having been chided by his owner for sending long-winded telegrams to explain the failure of his horses, reacted after yet another failure, by sending off the following cryptic message: SF SF SF SF SF.

When his owner demanded a translation, he replied: "Started, fasted, slipped and fell. See you Friday, Sid Forrester".

Personally, I have enough trouble trying to account to myself and my owner for a disappointing run without having to manufacture a spurious malady to satisfy some hobbogin in Portman Square.

Apparently, the regulation is a window-dressing initiative to give the public more confidence in the probity of racing. Like most of the recent activities of the disciplinary committee, it will do

more to bring racing into disrepute than the entire training and riding professions put together.

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After emotional retirement, Britain's beaten champion considers last, lucrative bout

Benn tempted by final showdown with Jones

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL BENN may not be retiring after all. His supporters had feared that they would no longer thrill to the drama of a Benn contest once he announced his retirement from the ring after his defeat by Thulane Malinga, of South Africa, at Newcastle on Saturday.

He is not only thinking of carrying on, however, but also he believes that he could be going for a third world title. That one could be a multi-million dollar affair against Roy Jones Jr, considered the best boxer pound-for-pound in the world, and the man whom Benn most wants to meet.

When the split decision in favour of Malinga was announced, Benn took the microphone from the master of ceremonies and told the capacity crowd of 10,000 at the Newcastle Arena that he was finished with boxing.

"I've done my bit for British boxing," he said. Then, with his voice breaking, he added: "It's time for me to call it a day." He was so carried away with emotion that, even as Malinga started celebrating, Benn went down on one knee and proposed to his girlfriend, Caroline Jackson.

"This is the girl who picked me up through everything," he said. "I'd like to say, Caroline, will you marry me." Caroline

bent down and kissed him and picked him up yet again.

Benn was so depressed after defeat that he did not attend the post-bout press conference. Yesterday, however, he said that he was going off on a long break to think about his future. He seemed to see the defeat as a timely warning.

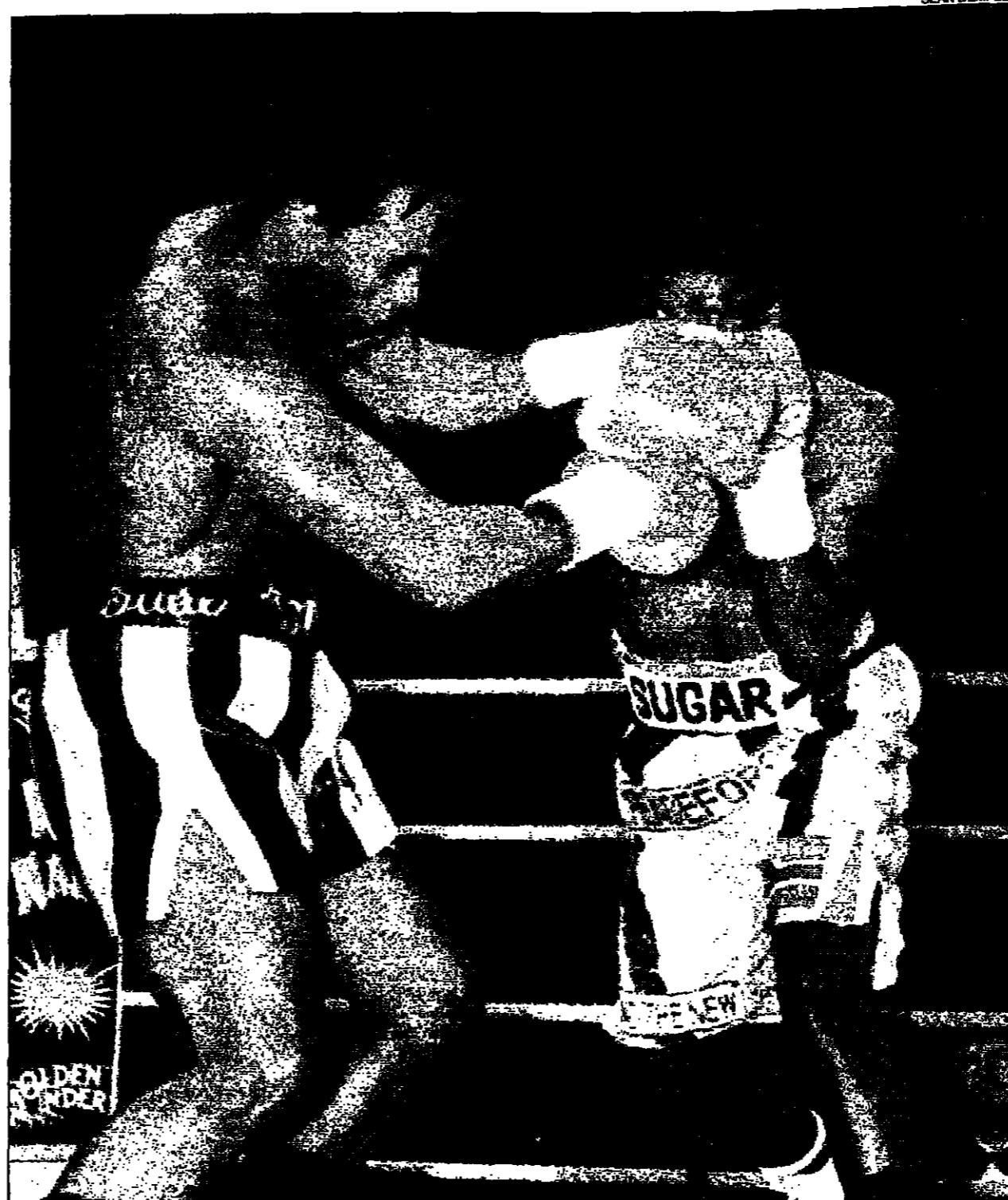
"This could give me a chance to go for a third world title," he said. "I don't think I am shot or punch-drunk. I needed a kick up the backside. I don't want to go out like this. If it had been against Gerald McClellan, it would have been goodnight and goodbye.

Results — page 33

"I was in an emotional state. I am going on holiday to think about it and talk it over with my girlfriend. I will decide when I come back. I realise it wasn't me in the ring. I was unprepared. I thought it was going to be an easy night. I just did not have the fear factor which is what I need to perform at my best."

While Benn's immediate target could be Steve Collins, the World Boxing Organisation champion, it is the bout with Jones that would bring in the most money. Jones is the man to provide the fear factor.

Tearful Benn announces his retirement from the ring



Malinga backs Benn against the ropes and rocks the battered Briton with a ferocious right hand

owned by News Corporation, owner of *The Times*, said: "Nigel went to the well once too often; he found it dry."

Yet from his performance it did not seem that Benn had lost all his fight. He simply met the wrong type of boxer on an off night. Benn has shown that he is not only the most exciting boxer but also the

most courageous, as well, by coming back from severe defeats by Michael Watson and Eubank to become arguably the third best boxer pound-for-pound in the world, behind Jones and Oscar De La Hoya.

On the night, Malinga proved too smart for Benn. From the first round, he proceeded to give him a box-

ing lesson, and only once did he forget his plan to jab and move. That was in the fifth, when Benn caught him with the right and floored him, but, after taking his full eight count rest, Malinga stayed clear of any more trouble during that round. Benn never got another chance.

At the end, one of the judges

had Benn nine rounds behind, another five. One judge, Chuck Giampa, of the United States, thought that Benn had won by two points. He was on his own in the hall of 10,000.

Malinga, who received a special message of encouragement from Nelson Mandela before the bout, will go back to a hero's welcome.

Entrants ready to put their cards on the table

By ROBERT WRIGHT

THE TIMES Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, the largest bridge tournament staged in the United Kingdom, is proving a massive success with experts and novices alike.

More than 2,000 pairs have already entered in search of a share of the £21,000 prize fund covering four categories — one expert and three non-expert — but there is still time for further heats to be organised. Entry costs £6 per person, 20 per cent of which goes to the National Trust.

With direct mailing to bridge and golf clubs, more than 5,000 items of post have already been dispatched. During the three weeks since the competition's launch, more than 1,700 postal and telephone inquiries have been received.

One query that keeps cropping up from clubs is whether a non-playing director is needed for entry to the tournament. The organisers have decided that this is no longer a requirement, provided that scoring is not done until play has finished.

The issue of the kits that are needed to run heats is commencing, with 140 heats having been organised, involving more than 4,000 players.

Heats will take place throughout the country and involve not only bridge clubs, bridge sections of golf, tennis, bowls, croquet and other social clubs, but also groups of social players who have formed their own heats.

Teams range from the Dangerous Aces, in St Andrews, to the Hurst Players, in Brighton, and from Brian's Babes, in Salford, to the Zebra Pub, in Cambridge.

Any players wishing to take part but who have found that their usual club will not be holding a heat can contact the Challenge office on 0181 942 9506 for details of an alternative club in their area.

Tearful Benn announces his retirement from the ring

Last British place goes to Denmark

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

GREAT BRITAIN yesterday selected a nine-man team comprising entirely of Englishmen for the world cross country championships in Stellenbosch, South Africa, on March 23. The one chance of Welsh or Scottish representation was rejected when Rob Denmark was included despite finishing tenth in the trial at Stakeford, Northumberland, earlier in the day.

The first seven home in the trial were assured of selection, with the last two names added at the selectors' discretion. Jon Brown, after showing form in a road race in Florida eight days earlier, did not contest the trial, but was given the eighth place. The last went to Denmark, the Commonwealth 5,000 metres champion, though he finished behind Nick Comerford, of Wales, and Robert Quinn, of Scotland.

In a decision backed by

David Clarke, the team manager, the selectors picked Denmark because they felt that he was more likely than Comerford, Quinn, or Christian Stephenson, the Welsh champion, to be prominent on the fast, flat course in Stellenbosch. "He has the leg speed to perform well, and he could be the difference between a medal and not winning a medal," Clarke said.

The course at Northumberland was muddy and hilly and Denmark had not raced since December after injury and illness. "I am not race-fit, but I am definitely going to get better," he said.

Steve Harris apart, the top seven were much as expected, although Keith Cullen's victory over Andrew Pearson was a small surprise. Harris arrived hoping to scrape into the top 20; competing in the world championships by finishing as high as seventh had not entered the equation.

Cullen, Pearson and Chris Sweeney, who was third, have

run consistently well this winter. John Nutall, fifth yesterday, underlined his endurance to go with the speed that took him to a Commonwealth 5,000 metres bronze medal. It is to be hoped that Cullen is not superstitious. Not since 1989 has the trial winner been the leading Briton in the world championship.

In the absence of the injured

Paula Radcliffe, Alison Wyeth had won the women's trial. Indoors against France the previous weekend, Wyeth had run a victory lap after the 3,000 metres and given away the winner's flowers. Then she learnt that she had finished second, pipped by Olsec by Laurence Duguenoy. Wyeth left nothing to chance yesterday, putting away long before the finish.

Radcliffe, Britain's only hope for an individual medal in Stellenbosch, has not trained since Wednesday, but her coaches said yesterday that her physiotherapist expected her to resume this week. Radcliffe hurt her knee and back while racing eight days ago, missed the trial, but was, as expected, included in the team.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM: Men: K Cullen (Chelmsford), A Pearson (Lancaster), S Harris (Tynemouth), A Peasey (Bromsgrove), J Nutall (Preston), D Barrow (Birchfield), S Harte (Bromley), B Brown (Sheffield), R Denmark (London), R Quinn (Cardiff), C Sweeney (Bedford), A Hulley (Leeds), V McPherson (Glasgow), P Radcliffe (Bedford), S McGroarty (Brentford).

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Close Brothers, Cornwell Parker, Hays, JD Wetherspoon, PBA Group, Bata Global Emerging Markets, British Polythene, Clementine, ETS Group, Enso-Generals, General Cable, Inland Justitia, Macmillan, Perkins Group, Relyon Group, Smith & Nephew, AGM: AG Barr, Eurocelp, Haemocel, Traw, United Breweries, EGMI, Edinburgh Fund Managers, Excalibur Group, United Breweries. Econ stats: Official reserves and M2 (February).

TOMORROW

Interims: Beacon IT, British Biotech (CS), European Leisure, Finlays Group, Linx Printing Group, Reine, Pinewood Toys, BSM Group, Bumfield, CIMA, Beers Consolidated Mines, Independent Insurance, Inspecc, Kary Group, Metal Bulletin, Paragon Systems, Pegasus Group, Pendragon, Perpetual UK Smaller Companies, Scottish TV, Singapore Park, Ruber, SR Pan-European, Transport Development Group, WSP Group, AGM: Kestrel Inds, EGMI, Cors. Coal. Econ stats: Advance energy (Nov-Jan).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Merivale Moore, Finsas, BWD Securities, Cadbury Schweppes, Candover Investments, Cape, Central European Growth, Glaxo Wellcome, Israel Chemicals Holdings, IMI, Koda, Smaller Companies Inv Trust, Stat-Plus Group, Strong & Vicker, T&N, Vickers, Woodchester Inv, Wyevale Garden Centres, AGM: Coda Group, Dawson Holdings, Royal Bank of Canada, Econ stats: Housing starts (Jan).

THURSDAY

Interims: Conrad, Galford, A&J Mackie, Perpetual Japanese Inv Trust, Rebeschuk, Finsas, AJ Wiggins Appleton, T Clarke, Constar, Trust, Cooleen Group, Corwith, Erickson, Fairway Group, Gibbs & Dandy, GKN, Group Development Capital Trust, Hillsdown Holdings, IMI, Koda International, Ladbrokes Group, Lloyds Smaller Companies, Micro-PC, Pilkington Group, More O'Ferrall, North Midland, Ocean Group, Rolls-Royce, RTZ Corp, Sanderson Bramall Motor Group, Sun Alliance, Telewest, Virtusity Media, Zeneca Group, AGM: Amer Group, Brooke Tool Eng., First City, First City Corp, Econ stats: Monthly monetary meeting between Chancellor and Governor of the Bank, CBI dist. trades survey (Feb).

FRIDAY

Interims: Waterman Partnership, Finsas, Anglo Pacific Resources, Greggs, Hamro Countrywide, Latin American IT, Litho Supplies, Maled, Mercury Grosvenor Trust, Paribas, French Inv Trust. Econ stats: Const. output (Q4).

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

City ready for Glaxo profits cocktail



Sir Richard Sykes, who is expected to announce impressive Glaxo Wellcome results

and the benefits to soft drinks sales of a long, hot summer offset the adverse effects of the hot weather on melting confectionery sales. Henderson Crosthwaite is looking for final pre-tax profits to rise to £52 million (£47.9 million). Market forecasts range from £51.8 million to £50 million.

Underlying sales growth is thought to have continued at about 8 per cent, though margins may have been squeezed by higher packaging and raw material costs.

CADBURY SCHWEPPES: The soft drinks and confectionery group should report stronger year profits on Wednesday as a maiden contribution from Dr Pepper/Seven Up, America's third-largest soft drinks group, acquired for \$1.7 billion last year, is expected to lead to a big fall in Mexican profits. A restructuring charge of up to £40 million is forecast for Dr Pepper.

ROLLS-ROYCE: An increase in military engine deliveries and a turnaround in the industrial and marine gas turbine business should help Rolls-Royce to a solid advance in full-year profits on Thursday. NatWest Securities is looking for pre-tax profits to climb to £145 million (£101 million), though a maintained dividend of 5p is predicted. Market forecasts range from £132 million to £148 million. The results will be boosted by heavy cost-cutting in the past three years, an increased contribution from Allison, the US aero-engines group acquired last year, and a fall in development spending now the big new Trent powerplant is in the air. Attention will focus on current trading and prospects after the group's recent string of new orders.

BAT INDUSTRIES: The tobacco and financial services giant should turn in another strong advance on profits when it reports on Wednesday. Kleinwort

Benson expects final pre-tax profits to rise to £2.3 billion (£1.75 billion), with market forecasts ranging from £2.25 billion to £2.41 billion. A dividend of 24p (21.9p) is expected.

GKN: A strong performance from Westland Helicopters should help the defence to car parts giant to please the market with final pre-tax profits of £315 million (£210 million), according to ABN Amro Hoare Govett. Market forecasts range from £290 million to £324 million.

VICKERS: A solid performance from the Rolls-Royce luxury car division should combine with strong growth in the defence division to help Vickers to power to final pre-tax profits of £70 million to £77 million (£44.8 million). Dividend forecasts range from 6p to 6.6p (4.75p). Apart from current trading and prospects, analysts await news after speculation that the recent deal to provide BMW engines for Rolls-Royce cars could lead to the German carmaker moving to take an equity stake in either Vickers itself or Rolls-Royce.

ZENECA: The drugs group, which plans to separate its loss-making seeds business, is expected to announce a big jump in full-year earnings when it reports on Thursday. Lehman Brothers is looking for Zeneca to turn in final pre-tax profits of £822 million (£660 million). A dividend of 29.9p (28.5p) is predicted. Market forecasts range from £850 million to £875 million. The group has already said that it will incur a £60 million exceptional restructuring charge.

RTZ: Thursday's figures from the world's biggest mining group, which recently merged its operations with Australia's CRA, are expected to benefit from a 25 per cent jump in the copper and aluminium prices last year. RTZ holds a stake of about 77 per cent in the merged company, which was effectively formed on January 1. UBS expects net earnings to advance to £825 million (£775 million), with a total dividend of 26.8p (23.4p) predicted.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Gilts point to rate cut

THE centrepiece of this week as far as the City is concerned is Thursday's monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, with the markets betting heavily that they will sanction another quarter-point cut in base rates. The gilt market rallied so strongly on Friday that a decision to leave rates unchanged may well provoke a setback. The only doubt on timing is whether the British authorities may wait for a month, by which time there may be interest rate cuts in America and Germany.

There is little further British data due before the monetary meeting. Narrow money M0 for February is published today and is expected to show growth of 0.8 per cent, compared with a drop of 0.2 per cent in January, according to the market consensus compiled by MMS International. This would boost its annual rate of growth to 5.9 per cent, from 5.5 per cent in January, but would be regarded as a serious impediment to lower base rates. On Thursday, the Confederation of British Industry's latest distributive trades survey is released. The latest cyclical indicators are also out on the day of the meeting.

The focus will also be on events abroad, particularly in the US and Germany, where there is interest rate speculation. After a weak US purchasing managers' survey on Friday, the employment data due for release on Friday is of interest. January saw a large 20,000 fall in non-farm payrolls, but this was largely pinned on poor weather and government shutdowns because of the budget impasse. Economists will be looking to see how much of a bounce-back there was in February, a better month for underlying trends.

In Germany, there is expected to be news on Wednesday of a sharp rise in unemployment in February, and Thursday is expected to confirm that the economy contracted in the fourth quarter.

JANET BUSH

TODAY BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO OFFERS EVERY TIMES READER THE CHANCE TO TAKE OUT A FREE FILM

See a free Blockbuster film on video

Today *The Times*, in association with Blockbuster Video, offers every reader the chance to take home a video from the Blockbuster Video Movie Collection for up to two nights absolutely free. All you need to do is collect three different tokens from those appearing in *The Times* until Friday, attach them to the voucher below, and take them to any of Blockbuster's 680 branches nationwide.

There are literally thousands of videos to choose from, ranging from killer-chillers such as *The Crying Game*, *Silence of the Lambs* or *North by Northwest*; mobster movies of which *The Godfather* trilogy reigns supreme (though fans of Jack Nicholson in *Chinatown* might dispute that); sci-fi thrillers such as *Alien* and *Jurassic Park* and all-time greats such as *The African Queen*, *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Casablanca*.

Videos are now part of a thriving multi-media industry and Blockbuster Video is Hollywood's biggest client, spending \$1.5 billion last year. But for most people, videos mean the freedom to see what you want when you want to.

Blockbuster Video stores are open seven days a week, 364 days a year, and they get the latest box office hits only six months after they are released. Some Blockbuster Video stores have 10,000 film titles in 30 categories and up to 100 copies of a new release. They offer a range to suit all tastes including musicals, romances and comedies.

There is nothing quite like curling up with a favourite icon of the silver screen in the comfort of your own home, and with this offer you can savour scenes from long-forgotten classics such as the tender exchanges in the railway restaurant in *Brief Encounter*, or re-running Mel Gibson in *Mad Max*.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
You may choose any film from the Blockbuster Video Movie Collection and keep your video for up to two nights. The offer is valid from March 6 to April 3, 1996. If you are not already a member of Blockbuster Video you will need to join, free of charge, by producing two forms of identification, e.g. a driver's licence or a bank statement. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. There is no cash alternative.

BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO VOUCHER

This voucher, with another two different numbered tokens attached, entitles the bearer to have a free video for up to two nights from the Blockbuster Video Movie Collection. The offer is valid until April 3, 1996, subject to availability. If you are not a member of Blockbuster Video, you will need to join, free of charge, by showing two forms of identification (e.g. driver's licence and TV licence).

THE TIMES
BLOCKBUSTER
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Clockwise from top left: Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in *Gone With The Wind*; Michael Keaton in *Batman Returns*; Jack Nicholson in *Chinatown* and Kathy Bates and James Caan in *Misery*

Stock Exchange and Bank reach Crest agreement

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England and the Stock Exchange have reached a compromise over Crest, the paperless share trading system that will be introduced this summer.

The Securities and Investments Board yesterday announced that it had approved an agreement between the London Stock Exchange and CrestCo, the company established to take over the development and management of Crest from the Bank of England. It is hoped the agreement will simplify and improve the proposed regime for reporting share trades

under the Crest settlement system, saving market users a total of £7 million.

Talks had broken off last year after a fall-out over exchange demands for "seamless trading". However, after the dismissal of Michael Lawrence, chief executive of the Stock Exchange in January, the two sides resumed talks.

CrestCo will issue a consultative paper by the end of March, setting out the proposed standards and, where appropriate, the necessary sanctions, which will ensure that both the matching of instructions between parties to

the settlement and the settlement itself take place within specified timescales.

At the heart of the dispute was the link between trading systems at the exchange and the Crest settlement system. The exchange wanted an interface between the two so that by the single input of a trade, all the processes of trading and settlement would be initiated automatically. But the board of Crest feared that contractual arrangements would be blurred and wanted direct input from both sides of the trade so that there would be confirmation that trade and settlement had taken place.

CrestCo investigated a variety of schemes that would deliver the substance of what the exchange demanded while delivering the necessary controls. But the exchange had been unwilling to compromise and no form of single input was achieved.

The argument over seamless trading was the second run-in between the exchange and the Bank. In the early days of Crest when the ownership structure was being established, the exchange demanded majority ownership. However, the Bank felt that, after the £400 million Taurus fiasco, ownership should be more diverse.

Eventually, the exchange accepted a small minority stake in CrestCo, along with other market participants.

The exchange will publish tomorrow its analysis of consultation into proposals for an electronic order-matching system. Mr Lawrence has blamed his dismissal on the opposition from market-makers to such a system. However, the analysis will show that, while market-makers do oppose the change to the current system, there is also broad opposition from institutional shareholders.

Mortgage scams boost fraud level

By JON ASHWORTH

FRAUD in Britain reached the second-highest point in nine years in 1995, fuelled by mortgage scams and a cashpoint sting which netted thousands of pounds. Recorded cases leapt 52 per cent to £466 million. Fraud against commercial business accounted for nearly a third of all cases.

The sharp rise in cases is disclosed in the 1995 KPMG Fraud Barometer, which charts recorded instances of fraud. The two big cases of 1995, Barings and Daiwa, fall outside the scope of the barometer, because charges were laid outside the UK.

Mortgage fraud featured heavily in 1995, although cases involving banks dropped by more than 25 per cent last year. The exception was the cashpoint sting, in which a fake build-

ing society cashpoint machine was set up in front of a shop. Account details and PIN numbers inserted were later used to fraudulently withdraw funds.

Adam Bates, KPMG Forensic Accounting partner, said: "These cases reveal the importance of maintaining strong and effective controls over the finance of professional firms, especially client funds, and the need for lenders to keep a tight rein on their controls."

"It is likely that we will see even more outlandish schemes used in the future." The biggest victim last year was the Government, which faced losses of up to £249 million on 14 cases, including tax fraud. Investors fell into the next biggest category, with 19 cases involving charges of £134 million.



Traders' delight: the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) traded a record 18,040,336 futures and options contracts in February, its busiest month ever, with daily trade worth £210 billion

Private sector pay levels increase

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAY settlements in the private sector are running higher than a year ago — with the floor for private sector deals edging up, a new study of wage agreements says today.

While pay deals overall are continuing to run ahead of inflation, the study says, in the private sector deals are "certainly stronger" than they were 12 months ago.

In its latest analysis of current wage trends, Industrial Relations Services, the independent pay analyst, says pay deals in the new year confirm the pattern of higher-level deals established last summer.

While deals are, in the main, staying level at 3.5 per cent overall, IRS says that there are signs of buoyancy in the top 25 per cent of pay settlements. There, the overall

level of deals has moved up from 3.7 to 4 per cent in a month, and the study says that this trend is reflected in the broad industrial spread of the awards, from car manufacturers to engineering and service sector firms.

Although the Government has recently agreed pay rises for 1.3 million workers in the public sector covered by pay review bodies, IRS says that the decision to stage the awards means that they are unlikely to "add inflationary fuel to pay trends in the coming months".

But in the private sector, the base or floor for deals is rising. The bottom 25 per cent of deals are running at 3.2 per cent or less, IRS says, compared with a steady level of 3 per cent since last September.

Daimler's sale of MTU falls through

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A JOINT effort by Rolls-Royce and BMW of Germany to buy MTU, the aero-engine business of Daimler-Benz, has failed.

Existing collaborative agreements between MTU and Pratt & Whitney, Rolls's American rival, have blocked a deal.

MTU is involved in the development of three new engines with Pratt & Whitney.

Although it would have preferred to sell the business to BMW, Daimler has now presented proposals to Pratt & Whitney that would enable MTU to focus on its core skill as a specialist high-tech aero-engine component supplier.

Daimler officials believe that, with some restructuring, MTU can meet Daimler's 12 per cent target rate of return

on capital and thus justify retention within the group. That raises question marks over MTU's long-term role in warplane engines.

MTU is a partner, with Rolls-Royce and Turbomeca of Italy, in the manufacture of power plants for the Tornado bomber and the Eurofighter.

The move appears to leave BMW-Rolls set to become Germany's leading aero-engine manufacturer. BMW-Rolls is close to completing development of its first engine, the BR700 series, which has been designed to power business jets and airliners of up to 110 seats.

Separately, Daimler has opened discussions with several other companies in the hope of selling Dornier, its turbo-prop maker.

Deutsche ready to launch new super era

By OUR CITY STAFF

DEUTSCHE Morgan Grenfell, flexing its muscles as it seeks to secure a big presence in world investment banking, inaugurates its super-trading floor in London today.

The cavernous trading room spanning 36,000 sq ft — the size of a football pitch — is one of the largest in London. Built at an estimated cost of £20 million, it will accommodate 600 traders at 462 work stations at the bank's Great Winchester Street head office in the City.

Just over 15 months ago Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest commercial bank, merged its investment banking operations with those of Morgan Grenfell, its UK subsidiary, and shocked the German financial community, and the Bonn Government, by locating the entire operation in London.

Now Deutsche is taking on the American and international powerhouses at the top of investment banking.

Ronaldo Schmitz, the Deutsche board member charged with running Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, has placed great confidence in Edson Mitchell, the head of the global markets division that includes dealing and sales in areas such as currencies and debt.

Mr Mitchell, 42, who earns more than the bank board members who appointed him, has already apparently paid for himself by escaping unscathed the sharp decline this year in the global bond markets that snared the competition.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell employs 7,000 people worldwide, of which 2,000 work for global markets. In the next two to three years, the bank aims to become one of the three largest firms in the global markets area.

In three to five years, the group wants to capture the number one spot globally in terms of profitability and market share.



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ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Dealers predict premium for IOC

By PHILIP PANGALOS

IOC, which supplies optics to the telecoms industry, should enjoy a healthy premium when it makes its debut on the Alternative Investment Market for smaller and growing companies tomorrow. David Abrahams, a dealer at Winterflood Securities, expects the shares, which are being placed at 80p, to open at about the 100p level.

AIM, which now has 128 companies listed with a total market capitalisation of £2.63 billion, received a big boost last week after Merrill Lynch commenced making markets in the shares of 25 companies.

Paul Roy, managing director of Merrill Lynch's equity sales and trading in Europe and Asia Pacific, said: "Our willingness to commit capital and other resources to AIM reflects the firm's deep commitment not only to the UK equity market but also to the smaller company sector where we already make mar-

kets in about 700 UK listed companies. We intend to extend that commitment by providing research coverage through our smaller companies team."

Freepages, the telephone directory company, enjoyed a healthy start to trading on AIM last week, with its shares racing to 16½p, compared with a placing price of 12p.

However, Memory Corporation reminded investors of the potential dangers of in-

vesting in AIM. Its shares suffered a big setback after the computer products company announced increased losses with a profits warning. Shares in Memory Corporation slumped by 107p on Friday to 225p, giving a hefty loss of 177p on the week.

Skypharma, the pharmaceutical group, pleased the market with four appointments including Walter Zeller, formerly with Ciba-Geigy, as a non-executive director.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Market cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/−	Ytd %	FVE	Market cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/−	Ytd %	FVE
15.80	AMCO Corp	111	+ 2	5.1	12.2	2.25	Lifehouse As Trn	95	− 1	..	..
41	Abacus Recruit	..	..	..	..	1.38	London Town	55	− 5	..	..
130	Ad de Groot	..	..	5.4	10.8	1.61	Alcatel Gp	225	− 3	2.1	28.4
11.61	Alcon	111	+ 4	..	..	12.40	Alcon D'oses	51	− 2	1.9	..
4.92	Albermarle & Bd	134	+ 4	..	..	47.00	Alphamedia Wts	109	− 2	..	..
20	Alpha Omicron	..	..	..	..	5.57	Altek	88	..	..	39.3
37.80	Ann St Brewery	355	+ 15	55	11.9	133.20	Memory Corp	225	− 177	..	..
895	Ann St Ctr Pt	895	..	8.9	..	6.33	Metrodome Films	22	..	..	..
78.20	Antonov	110	+ 17	..	..	10.80	Monopole	220	+ 35	25	..
8	Anton Progs	..	− 1	..	..	2.27	Moschel	70	..	..	..
11.70	Antonov Centra	71	− 2	..	..	21.10	Multimedia	75	..	..	..
7.05	Antibody Test	59	..	..	..	25.10	NWF Grp	335	..	24	16.2
5.76	Antimony	5	− 1	..	..	8.73	Nell Clark	345	..	2.9	..
4.88	Antis Hogs	19	..	..	..	5.63	Nelson Cobbold	205	..	2.3	16.7
3.85	Anticancer	43	..	..	..	5.22	Notary II	73	..	..	..
0.98	Antennas Ltd	145	− 1	3.9	..	1.20	Notary I	73	..	..	..
70	Antennas Ctr Pt	70	..	..	..	0.94	CCI Hogs	118	..	..	..
5.22	Antennas Ctr Pt	312	+ 7	25	31.2	0.12	CCI Founder Sths	110	..	..	..
0.94	CCI Hogs	..	..	..	..	3.29	Cafe Inns	115	+ 3	2.2	..
0.12	CCI Founder Sths	..	..	..	..	6.75	Caledonian Tst	55	− 10	6.7	..
7.57	Charwell Tst	71	..	..	..	15.70	Card Clear	70	..	..	..
12.70	Cheltenham	10	..	..	..	1.35	Cassady Bros	52	..	..	..
30	Cheltenham	30	..	..	..	5.28	Celebrated Group	18	..	..	..
12.20	Com de Pt. Fin	510	..	..	..	24.00	Celtic	9250	+ 2500	..	..
7.59	Conisfer Tst	38	+ 1	26	163	16.00	CI Comms(IV)	119	..	..	..
73	Country Gdns	73	..	21	15.1	17.00	CI Comms(IV)	119	..	..	..
2.68	Coty Gdns Pt	73	..	91	..	18.00	Com de Pt. Fin	41	..	..	..
33.60	Credit Int'l	92	..	..	..	19.00	Com de Pt. Fin	41	..	..	..
16											

Employers lobby Labour over training levy

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LABOUR is likely to retain training levies for the construction industry in response to pressure from employers.

Companies in the engineering construction and building industries are to press Labour to retain a levy in these two sectors when the party unveils its new proposals for the funding of training later this month.

Industry leaders in the two sectors maintain that without the grant-levy system operating, most if not all training will disappear. They say that the industries' special circumstances

short contracts on projects and a highly mobile labour force coupled with demands for high skill levels mean that training is essential — but that the levy system is the only method which will provide it.

Peter Griffiths, director of the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board, who is to press the industry's case for a levy in talks soon with Stephen Byers, Labour's training spokesman.

Mr Griffiths says that alternative ideas such as personal training accounts will not work in his industry. The board currently administers a £9 million annual levy. He says: "The levy

works — there is no question about it. We will be arguing for special case retention of the present system — not for industry generally, but for our industries."

Labour last year launched a review of its long-standing policy of funding industrial training by means of a statutory levy on companies, coupled to a system of grants.

Business opposes the levy system, and is much more in favour of the incentive-based learning-account ideas which Labour will unveil at the end of this month as its new training policy. The Government also opposes the levy system, and in the 1980s scrapped all

but two of the industrial training boards which used to administer it, insisting that the system was bureaucratic and inflexible, and did not provide adequate training. Instead, the Government chose locally-based and business-led training and enterprise councils as the main mechanism for delivering training.

But as part of its new policy, Labour is likely to agree to the calls from employers in the engineering construction and building industries for the retention of the levy grant system there, in spite of the party's policy move away from the idea in its proposals overall.

Agreement on councils expected

Trade union leaders across Europe are set to agree minimum standards for the creation of European works councils. Unions insist that common standards are necessary to ensure the smooth working of the councils and to make sure that employees covered by them are treated fairly across Europe.

But the move is likely to reinforce opposition to works councils from the Government and business leaders in the UK, who say the rigid prescriptions for the councils laid down in EU law do not suit individual companies.

Companies in the UK are increasingly voluntarily adopting the councils despite the Government's opt-out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

Ballot result

The ballot result is expected today on industrial action by thousands of workers at United Utilities, the merged group of North West Water and Norweb, the regional electricity company. Workers were balloted after the company moved to derecognise employees drafted into a new facilities management operation of the business.

Fujitsu delay

Fujitsu, the Japanese electronics company, has postponed the opening of its semiconductor factory in Co Durham for about six months because of uncertainty about future market conditions for computer memory chips. The factory was originally scheduled to start production in the summer of 1997.

Government opens sale campaign for British Energy

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE Government today launches in earnest its privatisation campaign for British Energy, seeking to convince the City that the nuclear power entity can justify its price tag of about £2.5 billion.

City analysts will hear what BZW, the broker acting for the Department of Trade and Industry, believes are the prospects for the most modern of the power stations and what is likely to be the extent of the generators' liabilities for disposing of waste.

But the presentations, which will gauge City reaction and lead to an eventual flotation price for the reactors belonging to Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, come as the Government and British Energy, the new company formed from the eight stations, are locked in argument over who should pick up the liabilities bill.

The Government is insisting that the State picks up none of the bill for the estimated £14 billion liabilities. The company, led by Bob Hawley, chief executive, is equally adamant it should not face privatisation saddled with such a cash commitment. The clash is believed to be so strong that some observers have questioned whether Dr Hawley will survive the fight.

But analysts will also be keen to know what the projections are for the future of

British Energy. It is undoubtedly a strong cash generator but the future strategy of the company will be fundamental for long-term investment concerns. It has been speculated that the anodyne name of British Energy may signal diversification into non-nuclear generation.

The huge cost of building a nuclear plant would seem to prohibit the exhumation of plans for Sizewell C or similar new developments. The eventual flotation price of British Energy is widely expected to fall significantly short of the £2.9 billion cost of the Sizewell B power station.

The sale of the nuclear stations is expected to cost the taxpayer about £25 million in fees paid to financial and legal advisers, public relations costs and advertising expenses.

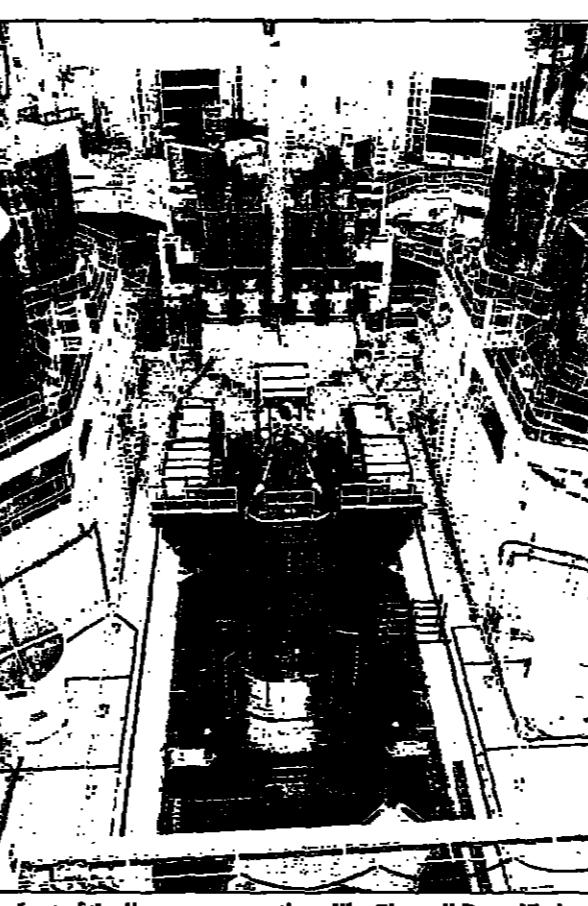
That budget, according to a response by Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, to Margaret Beckett, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, will be spent on 21 companies handling the restructuring and promotion of the nuclear generation business.

British Energy was formed through the merger of Scottish Nuclear and Nuclear Electric. It will have about 25 per cent of the electricity market, making it the biggest supplier ahead of National Power, which speaks for a 20 per cent market share.

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Last of the line: no new stations like Sizewell B are likely

A&L stops selling endowments

By CAROLINE MERRELL

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER Building Society will stop selling endowment policies to its customers today as it launches its own life insurance and unit trust companies.

The society said that it had made its decision because it felt the public had become disaffected with the product.

Endowments have been criticised strongly for their high charges and low flexibility. Instead, the society will offer

customers a personal equity plan to pay off their mortgages.

The Alliance & Leicester is the latest society to set up companies specifically to sell financial products to its own customer base. Halifax, Nationwide and the Woolwich already run their own life insurance and unit trust operations, as do all the high street banks.

Alliance & Leicester is also

severing its tie-up with Scottish Amicable. The society is believed to have considered but rejected setting up a joint life company with Scotam.

Guy Whiting, the managing director of the two new companies, said: "We wanted to provide our customers with a straightforward range and competitive products."

He added: "We found that customers were not interested in bells and whistles. The

number of endowments we sell has fallen." He said that endowments now accounted for less than 10 per cent of its new business, down from its peak of 40 per cent.

Mr Whiting said that it was planned to start selling pensions later in the year.

In February, Alliance & Leicester announced plans for a stock market flotation, which is expected to go ahead next year.

Why bond markets love a slump

Bond markets love economic recessions. They relish the lower inflation that slowdown brings, they delight in the private sector's reduced demand for credit, and, best of all, they adore the easy money policies that central banks can normally be relied upon to implement to revive their economies. Indeed, the relationship of strong bond prices and weak GDP trends is so reliable and robust that it is tempting to see any hiccup in the former as a consequence of one in the latter.

This probably explains why the analytical community now talks about the strengthening pattern of global economic activity. There is a compulsion to account for the softness of bond markets in recent weeks, and the 'recovery' thesis is conveniently plausible — even if it requires extra-sensorial perception to identify corroborative evidence. Everyone sees in an inkblot what he is pre-disposed to see, and the market analysis is more susceptible than most.

The reality, more likely, is that levels of activity are still well below capacity. It is not that consumers and industrialists have no spending power, just that they wish not to deploy it. They are pessimistic. Insecurity impels them to use incremental income to pay down old

debt; they cannot bring themselves to extend borrowings.

This was the picture of the US economy painted by Alan Greenspan in his recent testimony to Congress. He noted that GDP, after out-growing its potential in 1994, was under-shooting it by the end of 1995. The chances of "excesses" developing in the near term were seen as almost negligible.

The situation in Germany is weaker still. Hans Tietmeyer and his "wise" institutes were slow to spot the anaemia, but have gradually begun to do so. Estimates of growth in 1996

are certainly being revised downwards. A maverick minority already sees the possibility of recession; three months hence, the consensus will recognise its inevitability.

Only in Japan is there any convincing evidence of an upturn — and, even there, hardly a frantic one. GDP might currently have accelerated to an annualised pace of 2 per cent. It will possibly quicken still further in the months ahead. However, with an output gap the difference between capacity and actuality of as much as 10 per cent, there is no

danger of overheating for a couple of years or more.

If economics has not been responsible for the loss of momentum in fixed-interest markets, what has been? There are two possibilities. The first is that the world's central banks have engineered an "unintended" tightening of monetary conditions. The second is that "hedgers" are up to their knavish tricks again.

An accidental squeeze on liquidity will occur from time to time. The authorities may try to steer the monetary ship on a steady course, but will fail

to do so. The February-to-November bond market decline of 1994 may well have been of this sort. What is certain is that there was never any "economics" justification for it. Analysts may have thought they spotted one at the time, but, really, "plausible explanation" syndrome was blinding them.

Is it possible that the phenomenon is repeating itself? If so, the message for non-hedging investors is the same as then. So long as the economic auguries remain dull, valuation can be expected eventually to recover. The further prices fall now, the more ferociously will they rebound then. Don't sell illogically because others are doing so logically, instead.

The investor works to a much shorter time-scale, however. A month is a long time in

R. D. NIGHTINGALE
Latinvest Securities

FT 30 share 2775.5 (+14.9)
FT-SE 100 3752.7 (+12.4)
New York Dow Jones 5536.56 (-93.9)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 20168.63 (-131.75)



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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 32

CONCHE

(a) To knead (chocolate) in a conche-machine, a mixer with shells like appliances like conche shells, which work the chocolate and keep it plastic. "When you make chocolate you have to conche it." This means mixing and kneading it in a special machine for a very long time, even days on end, to develop its smoothness and flavour.

FAUNIZONE

(b) A zone characterised by a particular assemblage of fossils, a portmanteau word from *fauna* animals + *zone*. "Faunizones are the successive faunal facies exhibited in strata."

BEEGA

(a) A measure of land-area in India varying locally from 1/4 acre to 1 acre. From the Hindi. Various transliterated as *bigah*, *bigah*, *bigah*, *bigah*. Warren Hastings, 1763: "I never seized a *bigah*, *bigah* or a *beswa* of the land belonging to Calcutta."

ATOLE

(a) A kind of corn or other meal; gruel or porridge made of this. An American-Spanish word derived from the Nahuatl *atoli*: "A American of barley meal. It is boiled in water: the Indians give this food the name of atole."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

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The return of Quatermass

The Quatermass Memoirs. Radio 3, 10.05pm.

Controlled paranoia: an inoculation against real horrors. Straight from the horse's mouth — Professor Quatermass himself, no less — comes an explanation of why BBC's scientific wonderman embarked on his world-threatening encounters with alien life forms in the 1950s. Nigel Kneale, the television serials' creator, brings the professor (Andrew Keir) out of retirement to dictate his memoirs to a woman reporter. Kneale parallels the ironies and horrors in the Quatermass stories with reminders of what was casting a dark shadow of fear over the real world of the 1950s. There are another four episodes to come. I will be glued to my radio set.

In the Fifties. Radio 3, 8.35pm.

There are as many soundly-based specifics as debatable generalisations in this documentary about the teenagers' revolutions in the 1950s. Ronald Pickup reads from the memoirs of Peter Vanisart who taught at a progressive, pull-apart school in Hampstead during the inhibition-shedding decade. Inevitably, grown-ups were caught in the young revolution's assault on the barricades of convention. One mother lied her daughter to call her "old cow". Other parents dismissed as mere self-expression the damage their offspring caused to guests, furniture and animals. Clearly, something was seriously amiss when one Lancashire town had 53 pubs and not a single youth club.

Peter Davall

RADIO 1

FM Stereo, 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30am Europe 5.00am Newsday 5.30am Europe 6.00am Today 6.30am Europe 7.00am Newsbeat 7.30am Out of the Shelf 8.00am Spring Tombs 2.30pm The Vintage Chart Show 8.30am World News 8.15pm Words of Faith 8.15pm The Greenfield Collection 9.00am News in German 9.15pm Anything Goes 9.45pm Sports Roundup 10.00pm The Saturday Show 10.30pm Radiohead 10.45pm Off the Shelf 11.00pm Tornados 11.00pm Newsbeat 11.30pm Omnibus 12.00pm News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15pm Britain Today 12.30pm Western Music 1.00pm Newsbeat 2.00pm World News 2.05pm Outlook 2.30pm John Peel 3.00pm News in German 3.15pm Radiohead 4.00pm News 4.15pm The World Today 4.30pm News 4.45pm Radiohead and the Cranberries 10.00pm Mark Radcliffe Midnight Wendy Loyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo, 4.00am Alex Lester 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Sue Wogan 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Sue Cook 2.00pm Debbie Thrower 3.30pm Ed Stewart 5.05pm Paul Heaney 7.00pm Peter Tosh 8.00pm with Damon Albarn 8.30pm Big Band Special 9.00pm Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00pm Frame 11.30pm The Jamones 12.05pm Digby Fairweather 1.00pm Steve Madden 3.00-4.00pm Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45am Wake Up to Money 6.00am The Breakfast Programme 8.35am The Magazine, incl 10.35am News from Europe; 11.30am News; 12.30am News from America; 1.30pm News; 1.35pm Moneywatch, and at 1.45pm Entertainment News 2.05pm Russia on Five 3.45pm Entertainment News 4.00pm John Inverdale 5.45pm Entertainment News 7.00pm Extra 7.35 Across the White Line (3/6) 8.00pm Newcastle v Manchester United 10.00pm Talk 11.30pm Night Extra, The Financial World Tonight 12.05am Digby Fairweather 1.00pm Steve Madden 2.05pm Up All Night

RADIO 6

6.00am Sandy War 7.00am Simon Bates 8.00am James Keeler 12.00pm Today 2.00pm Anna新的 4.00pm Scott Chisholm 7.00am Sean Bolger 8.00pm Doc 10.00pm James Whale 1.00-5.00am Ian Collins

CLASSIC FM

4.00pm Mark Griffiths 6.00pm Nick Bailey 8.00pm Humphrey Burton 12.00pm Simon 2.00pm Concerto 2.00pm James Crichton 6.00pm Newsnight 6.30pm Sonata 7.00pm Ken Russell's Movie Classics: Screen Lovers (10/13) 8.00pm Concert 10.00pm Michael Mappin 1.00pm Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 6.00pm Richard Skinner 12.00pm Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Home 7.30pm Paul Coyle 10.00pm Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

8.00am On Air, Stravinsky (The Fairy's Kiss); Vivaldi (Concerto in A, La Stravaganza); Beethoven (Violin, Leonore No 2); 8.03 Lycidas (March and Pavane, Romeo and Juliet); Massenet (Méditation, Thais); 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Schubert, arr Godowsky (Moment Musical No 3 in F minor); Schubert (Piano Concerto No 6 in D); 9.25 Barber (Cello Concerto); Chambray (Autumnal).

10.00am Musical Encounters, Janet Baker, mezzo, sings Gurney (Sleep); 10.04pm Cháikovskij (Overture to 1812); 10.15pm Schubert (Piano Concerto No 2 in G minor); Schumann (Frauenliebe und Leben); Vivaldi (Cello Sonata in E flat); 11.18pm Tra (Scandinavian chorale tunes); Salinen (String Quartet No 1); Brahms (Denn es geht darum); 12.00pm Concerto of the Week: Delibes and Massenet, including Delibes (Overture, Valse, Coppélia; L'Omelette à la Folambucha); Massenet (Pastorale et Fugue, Suite No 1)

1.00pm The London Symphony Concert, live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Michael Petri, recorder; Lars Harbinal, guitar/mandolin.

2.00pm Schools, The Song Tree 2.15pm Stories 2.25pm Let's Move 2.45pm The Great Gatsby

3.00pm The BBC Scottish Orchestra under Thomas Sanderling performs Tchaikovsky (Suite No 1 in D) (r)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00am News Briefing and Weather 6.25am Prayer for the Day 6.30am Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30am News 6.65, 7.55pm Weather 7.25, 8.25pm Sports News 7.45pm Thought for the Day 8.40pm Radio 4 Public: Matthew Erak's choice 100 years in the history of popular daily newspapers from 1896-1996 (3/6) 8.58pm Weather

9.00pm News 9.05 Start the Week, presented by Melvyn Bragg and John Timmerman; Tony Parsons, John Sessions, Arthur Marwick and Peter Townsend

10.00-10.30pm News Battling with the Past (FM only) 10.30pm Radio 4's Sunday Quiz

10.00pm Daily Service (LW only) 10.15pm This Scamp's Isle (LW only)

10.30pm Women's Hour, introduced by Jenn Murray, serials by Geraldine McEwan (1/12)

11.30pm Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444 from 10am

12.00pm News: You and Yours 12.25pm Counterpoint: Music quiz

1.00pm The World at One

1.40pm The Archers (1) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast

2.00pm News: The Piano, by Jane and Kalle Pöhlner

Second of a three-part dramatisation by Jacqueline Warner, with Stella Gonet

3.00pm The Afternoon Shift, with John Timpson

4.00pm News 4.00pm Kaleidoscope, in National Gallery Week, Lynne Walker looks at a gallery nominated by Ian Lomax; and there is also a report from the Perth Festival

RADIO 5

4.45pm Short Story: Jason and the Argonauts, by Dawn Lowe-Watson Read by 5.00pm with Carol Lowe and Jackie Hardgrave 5.55pm Shipping Forecast 5.55pm Weather

6.00pm Six O'Clock News 6.30pm Just a Minute (r)

7.00pm Six O'Clock The Archers

7.20pm The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (r)

7.45pm The Monday Play: Battle for the Dome, Jean Sénèque's drama about the hostile atmosphere surrounding the building of the dome of Florence cathedral in the 15th century, with John Rowe, Robert Glenister, Peter Jeffrey, Bryan Pringle and Crawford Logan (r)

9.15pm Six O'Clock Radio 4's Fringe, Seeing Things by Peter Timmins, With Christian Rodska (4/5)

9.30pm Kaleidoscope (1) 9.59pm Weather

10.00pm Six O'Clock Tonight 10.45pm Book at Bedtime: My Autobiography, by Charles Chaplin (1/10) (r)

11.00pm-11.30pm Destinations (FM only) Film: a six-part series of travel documentaries on travel themes (r)

11.30pm Education Matters (LW)

Drama series by Alison Lurie, about a woman priest (4/6) (r)

11.30pm Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00pm News, incl 12.27pm Weather

12.30pm That's the Book: Foreign Parts by Ged Hogan Redmond (1/7) (r)

12.45pm Shipping Forecast 1.00pm World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.0. RADIO 3. FM 80.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 198 (12.45-5.00am) CLASSIC FM. 199. WORLD SERVICE. MW 545. LW 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Cleaning up dross can turn green into gold



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

The missing link between Labour's policy intentions and the means to achieve them is the most elusive political grain of the age. Green folk thrilled to Tony Blair's speech on the environment at the Royal Society last week. Those used to his rhetoric on other subjects remained understandably more sceptical.

Today, there is one positive sign. Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, is giving vocal backing to a campaign by the Environmental Industries Commission to stop delays in controls being applied to industries that pollute the air with solvents. Dragging our feet, he says, allows foreign competitors to get ahead and grab the lion's share of a huge world market in clean-up equipment and technology. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, would probably not disagree with a word. He might even add a few. But practical politics often spoils good intentions.

Until now, Mr Dobson's main attack has been on the prices, profits and failures of privatised water companies. Yet this industry has spent more money and effort in the 1990s than any other to cut pollution. Improve the purity of its product and aid public health. Envi-

ronmental economic indicators of the kind that Mr Blair pledged are already made up by the OECD in Paris. They suggest, for instance, that Britain has a better record on water supply and sewage treatment than most comparable countries.

Environmental issues are often not black and green, but shades of grey. Estuarine barrages could generate power without emissions of sulphur dioxide, greenhouse gases or other nasties. But they would probably bring catastrophe to existing nuclear. Nuclear power is one of the few industries that can turn green into gold.

surplus cash in electricity companies. In this area, however, tax and price signals have to be pretty garish to achieve results. As the Government discovered over VAT on fuel, they usually cause most pain to the poorest and force big permanent increases in public spending. Much anger is caused by similar arguments over transport.

Fortunately, huge opportunities

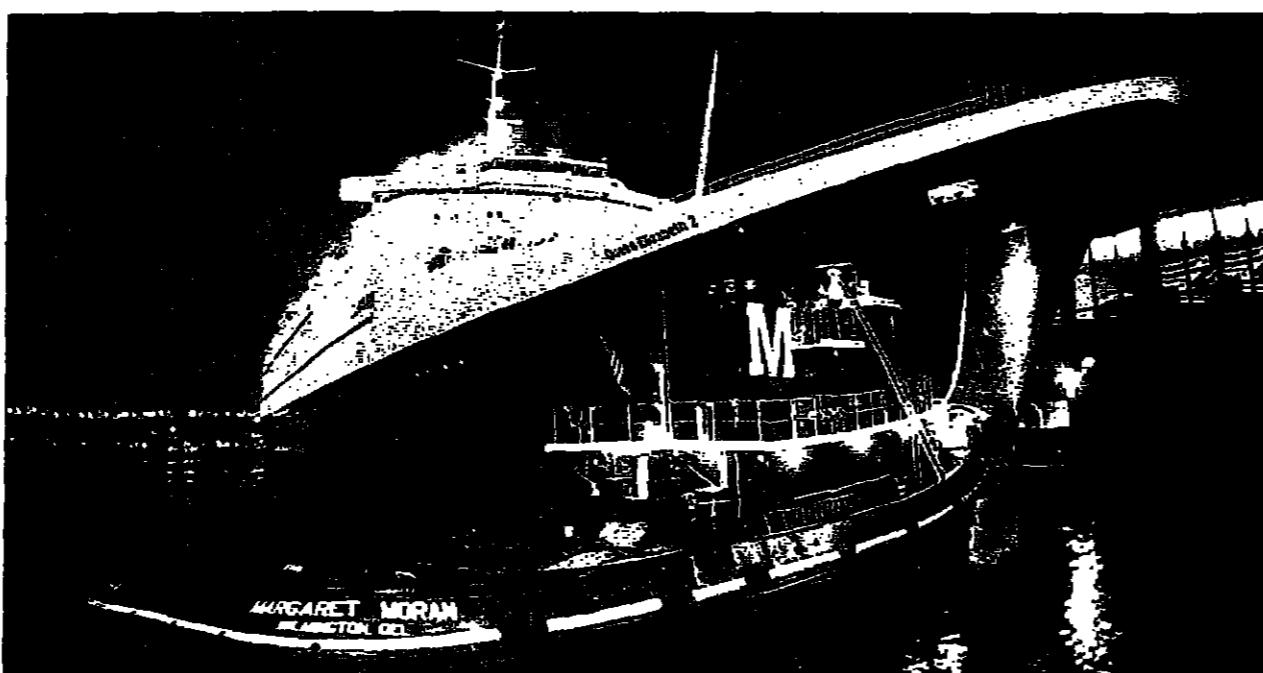
exist for solvent emissions, but it is hard for outsiders to judge. It is clearly wrong to make one decision, and then change it four years later, bringing a two-year hiatus in orders for anti-pollution contractors. Those who have invested in R&D look stupid, instead of inspired. The contractors were not consulted.

This is not the only example to deter would-be environmental growth companies. The scandal of the Brent Spar North Sea platform was really the policy enunciated by Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister. The fate of all rigs would be dealt with on an individual case-by-case basis. How can a new British industry with world potential develop on that basis? When it comes, the work will probably go abroad. A potential industry to clean up coal-fired power stations was smothered in infancy by like perfidy.

Comparative advantage is built by practice, which hones skills and solves problems. When you lag behind, you tend to stay behind, leaving the market to others. Tony Blair, like others, will find that there are conflicts between environmental concerns and competitiveness. Planning ahead sensibly with polluters and environmental industries is one sure way to turn green into gold.

Adrift in a sea of troubles

Kvaerner has Trafalgar House in its sights. George Sivell explains why it is a bid target



Trafalgar had to repay £8.4 million to passengers because of delays in refitting the Queen Elizabeth 2

erly, contracting and at sea, Trafalgar appeared well sheltered from a bid because it seemed unlikely that anyone would want it and because it was protected by the 26 per cent stake held by Jardine Matheson, the Far East conglomerate, after its Hongkong

Land offshoot helped a rescue rights issue for Trafalgar in 1992. Jardine had ideas and ambitions for Trafalgar. Trafalgar, with Simon Keswick at the helm, became the first bidder for a privatised regional electricity company. Mr Keswick,

a farmer in the Scottish borders, made a bid for neighbouring Northern Electric. The deal would have transformed Trafalgar. Cashflow from an electricity utility would have cut debts and would have been protected by £300 million or so of stored up tax shelter, created by Trafalgar's history of huge losses.

Northern, however, managed to cling on to its independence by offering shareholders a string of incentives, bonuses and special dividends, which in turn had rendered the company bid proof. Nobody else will pay out.

Jardine started eyeing up Trafalgar after Sir Nigel Brookes and Sir Eric Parker, its two founders, left the main board with payoffs of £1.9 million. This was a sorry end to almost 30 years of empire building that had seen the acquisition of great British names in engineering under the patriotic Trafalgar banner, and the acquisition of deluxe brand names such as Cunard, the QE2 and the Ritz hotel in London. Their exit from the boardroom in 1992 came after a dramatic strike by the Financial Reporting Review Panel, an offshoot of the Accounting Standards Board, which took exception to the £122 million pre-tax profit reported by Trafalgar for the year to September 30, 1991. After the threat of legal action by the ASB, Trafalgar restated its 1991 profits at £19.7 million.

Shareholders vented their anger at the January 1993 annual meeting by calling for the resignation of Touche Ross as auditors. By then, shareholders had already had enough. The beginning of the end was heralded by one deal

the continuing bid talks with the Norwegians. One can only speculate on the attraction of Kvaerner to Trafalgar.

On construction, Trafalgar said in its recent annual report that it is UK operations remain a source of major concern although overseas opportunities are better. Further British rationalisation is likely. Engineering remained in losses and the commercial property divisions look bleak.

But like everything else at Trafalgar, Cunard's future hinges on the continuing bid talks with the Norwegians. One can only speculate on the attraction of Kvaerner to Trafalgar.

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MONDAY MARCH 4 1996

STUNTED SHOOTS 38

GRAHAM SEARJEANT
ON WAYS TO TURN
GREEN INTO GOLD

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

MoD team to urge entry to European defence pact

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE most senior procurement committee of the Ministry of Defence is today expected to recommend that Britain joins France and Germany in a three-nation armoured vehicle programme, paving the way for Britain to join the nascent European Armaments Agency.

Membership of the agency would pave the way for wide-ranging collaboration in weapons design, development and procurement, and is expected to trigger a wave of

mergers and collaboration deals among European arms companies.

The recommendation by the Equipment Advisory Committee comes after a meeting on Friday between James Arbuthnot, the Procurement Minister, and Henri Conze, the French procurement agency chief.

Volker Rühe, Germany's Defence Minister, has made British participation in the Multi-Role Armoured Vehicle (MRAV) project for a "battlefield taxi" into an entry test for membership of the Franco-German procurement agency established ear-

lier this year. The agency is designed to achieve economies by sharing weapon development costs and increasing production runs.

Herr Rühe had earlier given Britain until the end of February to sign up to the MRAV project, insisting that Britain must accept a Franco-German design with many components made in French and German factories. That would have raised the cost, and made it hard for British companies to win work on a 3,000-vehicle project costing the three governments up to £3 billion.

However, M Conze is understood

to have told Mr Arbuthnot that, as part of its procurement review, published 12 days ago, France now wants a lighter, simpler vehicle.

Herr Rühe has also softened his stance, telling the MoD that he is willing to proceed on the basis of a looser specification. However, it remains unclear how France — with only one state-owned armoured vehicle maker, Giat — will accommodate British demands for the project to go to competitive tender.

The speed with which a European solution has moved back up the agenda has astonished industry

bosses. One said: "Only a week ago, it was going to be very touch and go. There were strong groups within the MoD in favour of a European solution, and going it alone."

However, the French need for a lighter vehicle suits Britain well. The MoD wants to buy 1,000 wheeled MRAVs for use behind the front line. It also wants 4,000 more heavily armoured, tracked combat vehicles.

Joining the European programme will avoid the need for a compromise design to fulfil both roles.

Vickers, builder of the Challenger 2 tank, has already formed an

alliance with the German tank-builder Thyssen-Henschel to work on MRAV and follow-on projects if Britain joins the Euro-agency. It has also held talks with Giat.

Alvis is understood to have made contact with MAK, a second German armoured vehicle manufacturer. GKN, builder of the Warrior personnel carrier, and Westland helicopters, is believed to have lobbied Michael Portillo, Defence Secretary, for an all-British solution, but may link with Krauss-Maffei, builder of Germany's Leopard tank, if MRAV is put out to competitive tender.

NARELLA AUTO

**City bets
on a cut
in the
base rate**

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE City is betting heavily on another quarter-point cut in base rates after the meeting on Thursday between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

The gilt-edged and sterling money markets rallied sharply on Friday after the latest purchasing managers' survey showed that manufacturing industry has been stagnant for six months and that prices had fallen to their lowest level for four years. Sterling futures are already discounting another quarter point of base rates to 6 per cent and a growing number of brokers are now looking for subsequent cuts, perhaps to as low as 5 per cent.

Roger Bootle and his team at HSBC Markets today forecast a near-perfect combination of 3.5 per cent growth next year and 2 per cent inflation. However, Mr Bootle believes that this outcome is heavily dependent on further cuts in interest rates and forecasts that they will fall to 5 per cent by the end of this year. He said: "Interest rates will make all the difference. If they go up this year, or if the general expectation develops that they will go up, then the consumer upturn could be scuppered."

Since the last monetary meeting, the evidence on inflation has been unambiguously good with producer input and output price inflation easing back sharply, retail prices falling below 3 per cent and the Confederation of British Industry's price expectations survey dropping sharply.

The international background is also more favourable with cuts in interest rates expected in America, Germany and France, possibly this month.

British supermarket food prices are forecast to rise by 4 per cent on average this year by Mark Pragnell, economist at the Centre for Economics and Business Research. He argues that heavy price discounting has not generated identifiable gains in total sales and damaged profitability over the past three years. He said: "Food retailers are starting to realise that their across-the-board price cuts have been bad for their business. As a result, we are now seeing much more targeted discounting and greater focus on other forms of marketing."

Economic outlook, page 35

Lehman Brothers fined

A LEADING City watchdog is expected to announce today that it has fined Lehman Brothers, the US investment bank, £80,000 plus undisclosed costs over dealings it had with the private companies of the late Robert Maxwell (Robert Miller writes).

The bank has already been part of a global settlement with the Maxwell pension funds in a separate deal.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), which polices brokers and futures dealers, is believed to have found the bank guilty of breaching rules laid down by the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, about keeping proper records and supervising staff adequately.

Disciplinary proceedings against Lehman Brothers were concluded in December. It is believed, however, that the delay was to ensure no clash between the SFA fine and the recent completion of the criminal trial of affairs relating to the Maxwell group of companies.

A spokesman for Lehman Brothers said yesterday: "The notice will make it clear we were not wrong to enter into these transactions [and] that Lehman Brothers did not know or have reason to know that Maxwell was raising money for his private companies and the SFA do not allege that Lehman Brothers caused any of the losses to the pension funds."

DTI looks into aid for firms that failed

By ROBERT MILLER

TENS of millions of pounds of taxpayers' money has been poured into companies and projects in the South West of England that have subsequently gone into receivership.

The scale of the losses has so alarmed the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) that a full-scale investigation is now in progress.

Disciplinary action is expected to be taken against a number of DTI officials in the South West region.

The DTI has compiled a secret report, understood to be nearly 150 pages long. It outlines how individual companies applied for — and often received — hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of regional grants and loan guarantees to help to create jobs in an area of high unemployment.

Additional funding was also provided by local authorities and the Department of the Environment, often in the form of rent-free premises and a period of grace in business rates.

Four companies are specifically named in the DTI report: Character Ceramics, Pan Atlanta, Portcurno Management and South West Farm Processors. Pan Atlanta (UK) is conducting its own inquiry into alleged abuses of DTI grants in a joint operation with Devon and Cornwall police. The SFO investigation, codenamed Gale, was launched last autumn, initially to investigate the collapse of

Rom Data, a failed West Country computer firm, that received £850,000 in grants in spite of the fact that one of its directors, John Dawson, was a discharged bankrupt.

After preliminary inquiries, the scope of Operation Gale appears to have been extended to look at other companies. Former Rom Data staff have been questioned by police, as has Mr Dawson and his wife, Elizabeth, at their home in Cork. Detective Inspector Steven Harrison, the officer in charge of Gale, said: "I cannot comment on any aspects of this investigation."

Last week, the DTI published a six-page report into the Rom Data crash. This admitted that there were "serious deficiencies in the handling of the case". An urgent review of procedures was ordered.

This weekend, David Jamieson, Labour MP for Plymouth, Devonport, called on the DTI to publish its hitherto secret report.

A DTI official said that no decision had been taken on whether the report would be published in full, in part, or even at all. Mr Jamieson said: "Tens of millions of pounds of taxpayers' money appear to have been wasted when many genuine firms are crying out for help. DTI ministers must publish the findings of their report, or the public may begin to suspect that a cover-up is in operation."

Other South West companies involved in the asset transfer chain that have subsequently failed include Ivens Electronics, MGC Technical Services, Avocet (UK) Ltd, Ridgewood Holdings and Ridgewood Industries.

The Serious Fraud Office is also conducting its own inquiry into alleged abuses of DTI grants in a joint operation with Devon and Cornwall police. The SFO investigation, codenamed Gale, was launched last autumn, initially to investigate the collapse of

including Cunard, the cruise ship division. However, it is most likely to seek a prompt disposal of the business. Potential buyers include P&O and America's Carnival Cruises.

Cunard, which lost about £170 million last year, has an ageing fleet that would need major investment over the next few years.

Kvaerner has indicated that it would be reluctant to hold on to Cunard, but may find it needs to invest substantially in improving the subsidiary's performance before it can find a buyer.

A

Sea of troubles, page 38

Formal Kvaerner bid for Trafalgar near

By MARTIN BARROW AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

TALKS between Kvaerner, the Norwegian shipping company, and Trafalgar House are believed to have made significant progress, and a formal takeover bid, recommended by Trafalgar, is imminent.

Meetings between representatives of both companies continued through the weekend and are understood to have overcome all significant hurdles. The offer price is unclear at present, but is likely to be from Friday's closing price of about 45p a share. This would value Trafalgar House at £840 million.

It is also expected that Kvaerner will make a full bid for the whole of Trafalgar.

Clerical Medical sale likely to fetch £800m

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

CLERICAL MEDICAL is set to be sold within four weeks for about £800 million. Potential buyers include NatWest.

The sale of Britain's sixth-largest mutual life assurance group would lead to bonus payments for about one million policyholders.

NatWest is expected to use the £2.2 billion it gained from selling NatWest Bancorp, its American bank, to fund future acquisitions, although the spokesman said that the money would not be available until April.

Last month NatWest announced a £472 million bid for Gartmore, the fund manager, after acquiring a majority stake from Banque Indosuez, of France.

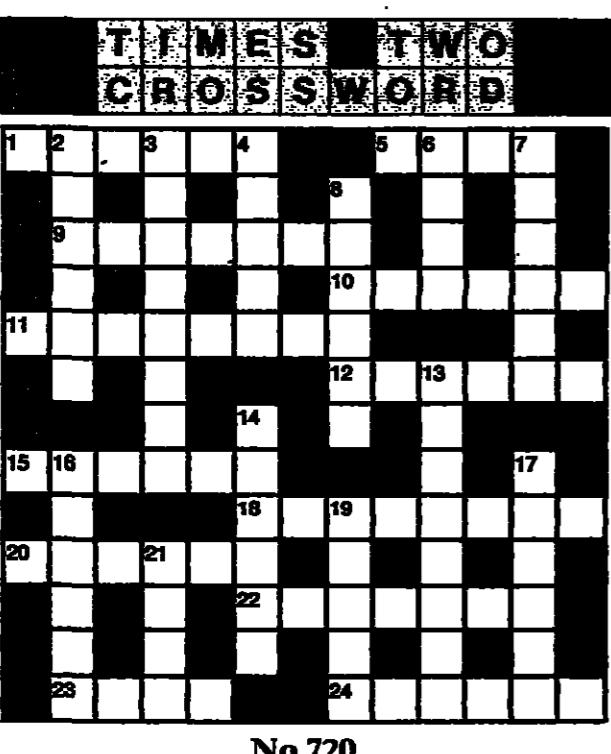
NatWest has a tie-up with Clerical Medical through NatWest Life, its life assurance subsidiary based in Bristol, in which Clerical Medical has a 7.5 per cent stake and manages some assets.

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The allegation that Leeson did hide money away will also be examined by members of the Commons Treasury Select Committee. MPs have returned to the Barings fiasco and are expected to question senior Barings executives, including Peter Barings, the former chairman, Andrew Tuckey, his deputy, and Peter Morris, the chief executive officer, about their supervisory role in the events leading to the failure of Britain's oldest merchant bank.

Those most interested in tracing the missing Barings millions are Ernst & Young, the UK administrators, and the Singapore administrators of Barings Futures (Singa-



No 720

ACROSS
1 Torpid, dazed state (6)
5 Audacious (4)
9 Comprehensive; finished (3,4)
10 Eugene —, US Nobel playwright (6)
11 Using, based on logic (8)
12 Blue/violet shade (6)
15 Shout; very funny thing (6)
18 Demeaning, unbecoming (5,3)
20 Important person (slang) (6)
22 One who hides away (7)
23 Commotion (2-2)
24 Considering; looking at (6)

DOWN
2 Porous powdered-leaf container (3,3)
3 Alleviate; extenuate (8)
4 Deeply divided (5)
6 Stare lasciviously (at) (4)
7 A sharp bend (3-3)
8 Long-winded (6)
13 Undeceive (8)
14 Self-exiled person (6)
16 Customer; dependant (6)
17 Old man, received Jesus in temple (6)
19 Klaus —, atom spy (5)
21 Magician's stick (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 719
ACROSS: 1 Dawn chorus 7 Arsenal 8 Throb 10 Phone-in 11 Alrite 12 Recede 15 Bedeck 17 Spurs 18 Opheila 21 Drake 22 Methane 23 Melting pot
DOWN: 1 Disco 2 Wine 3 Colony 4 Outrage 5 Ukraine 6 Pauperised 9 Breakwater 13 Crusade 14 Dissent 16 Common 19 Hot up 20 Least

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Leeson: co-operating

tives of the Barings creditors and the inspectors."

The allegations, contained in a report apparently prepared for professional asset hunters, suggest millions of pounds were syphoned off into bank accounts in the months before the Barings crash. Four

of the German accounts are ultimately controlled by an Indonesian company, it is alleged, and a further two are in Leeson's name.

The £860 million Barings collapse has been investigated by the Bank of England's independent board of banking supervision and by specially appointed inspectors in Singapore as well as the island state's commercial affairs department.

Leeson is serving six-and-a-half years in prison after pleading guilty to fraud and forgery charges last November in relation to the Barings crash. All concluded independently that he had not acted for personal gain.

Those most interested in tracing the missing Barings millions are Ernst & Young, the UK administrators, and the Singapore administrators of Barings Futures (Singa-

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Times 4/3

Britain, birthplace of fashion

LONDON



ANTONIO BERARDI: razor-sharp tailoring, flamboyant touches



ALEXANDER McQUEEN: you should forget the horror-show histrionics and concentrate on the great clothes



HUSSEIN CHALAYAN: grown-up, serious suits in unusual fabrics

During his visit last week to London Fashion Week, Tim Eggar, from the Department of Trade and Industry, asked me to explain why the event was so important. What did the stylish shenanigans on the catwalks have to do with anything? I simply told him: "This is where ideas are born."

No one has more, or indeed better, ideas than the British. Our designers are revered the world over. Many have achieved international acclaim. Even more are, at this moment, holed up in design studios in Milan, Paris and New York working behind the scenes on the collections of well-known designers.

Yet if Eggar had joined the throng who pushed and pleaded to get into Alexander McQueen's show, held in a church in the East End, he might have wondered if I was bonkers to say such things.

Each season McQueen finds a new way to challenge — and this time he tried to spook us with an oversize show full of diabolical accessories. *Rosemary's Baby* atmospheres and ghostly pale models.

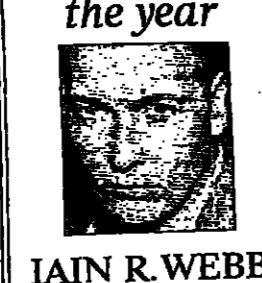
His devilishly clever technique (grey flannel and knitwear spliced with see-through stripes, or a flesh-coloured top beaded with tiny seed pearls) and unique vision (roomy coats trimmed with fluffy Mongolian fur, buttoned-together skirts and trousers, or the cutaway military jacket worn over a revealing lace dress) reaffirmed his place as our premier designer.

McQueen has already proved his worth — the perilously low-slung trousers he presented more than two years ago have provided the inspiration for the plethora of hipster pants now flooding the international market, but he should be encouraged to concentrate on the clothes and drop the histrionics which clutter the scene — although I'm sure the groupies who filled his show would disagree.

At the moment, McQueen is one of the most talked about designers on this planet. He spearheads a new school of young Brits including Hussein Chalayan, Antonio Berardi, Pearce Flonda, Clements Ribeiro, Paul Frith and Owen Gaster. They are tomorrow people, each with their own version of a brave new wardrobe.

However, a unifying theme appears to be a shared love of tailoring and a distinctly glamorous touch. Spikey la-

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB



BETTY JACKSON: offering an easy option



CLEMITS RIBEIRO: Aunt Lil's look

pels, viciously nipped waists, and angular shoulders are key trademarks.

Hussein Chalayan is often a more grown-up silhouette. His suits are seriously smart, in oxblood, china blue, grey and brown. Expert seamstressing is emphasised with piping, velvet dresses looked fresh, but nasty neon lace dresses were less successful. Better was a more understated look: a simple sleeveless sheer top, layered over a longer, sparkly version.

Fifties corsages were also popular with Antonio Berardi, who made flirting tea-dance dresses in brilliant canary yellow. His trouser suits in khaki tweed were strictly tailored with flamboyant details

such as medieval sleeves, multi-layered piping on the backs of jackets and Boys Brigade sashes across the front of others.

Owen Gaster is equally single-minded but less adroit. His brightly coloured cut-and-sew dresses looked fresh, but nasty neon lace dresses were less successful. Better was a more understated look: a simple sleeveless sheer top, layered over a longer, sparkly version.

There was much layering and lace at Paul Frith. Almost

everything came in black, so Frith used different fabrics to provide interest. Sleek suits came in shiny fake snake, stretch satin, or starched nylon, while slinky jersey shirts and jerseys were slipped over languid trousers. This look, or a long tunic over pants, was popular throughout the shows, with designers such as Betty Jackson, Fabio Piras, John Rocha, and Clements Ribeiro.

Frith made no distinction between day and night, showing a jacket with feathered cuffs alongside a full-length jersey dress similarly trimmed, or putting a plain polo neck over a lace dress. Katharine Hamnett followed

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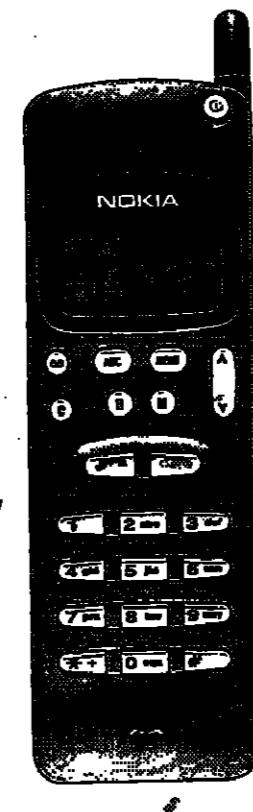
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Cells from remote peoples aid medical science

Tribal treasure

PRIMITIVE peoples were once the province of anthropologists: now they are just as likely to be studied by medical researchers in pursuit of rare cell lines. In at least two cases, in Papua New Guinea and in Panama, the biologists' success has caused ill-feeling and threats of legal reprisals.

Last week, an expert in Papua New Guinea came to the defence of the US Department of Health and Human Services, which has caused a furore by patenting a cell line from the remote Hagahai tribe, who live in Madang province in the north of the country.

Dr Michael Alpers, director of the PNG Institute of Medical Research, says that the virus isolated from the Hagahai, called HTLV-I or human T-cell lymphotropic virus type I, is a variant of the virus found around the world. Infection with HTLV-I, which can be passed on by blood transmission, can lead to leukaemia and lymphoma.

"We have known for some time that the virus infection is common in Papua New Guinea but the diseases it causes seem to be completely absent," Dr Alpers says. This is of obvious interest to medical researchers, who would like to know why. There is a remote possibility that finding out could lead to a vaccine against HTLV-I infection, which would be a valuable prize.

The PNG furore follows a similar row in Panama, where the Guaymí Indians were discovered to carry HTLV-II, a fairly close cousin of HIV, the AIDS virus. Yet, like the Hagahai, few seem to become ill. Representatives of the Guaymí Indians became



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

engaged when they found that the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta had applied for a patent on the cell line from their blood. The CDC later dropped the application, but not before charges of "biopiracy" had been made.

In Papua New Guinea, the case rumbles on. The PNG High Commissioner in New Zealand, Damien Gamlandu, said: "We have been talking about the exploitation of the rainforest and now we are talking about the exploitation of the human species."

But all this is a misunderstanding, according to Dr Alpers. Far from stealing the cell line from the Hagahai, the patent application specifically mentions them, meaning that the tribe would benefit "if in the remote future some commercial development arose from this discovery". Without the patent, any commercial company could have taken up development of the cell line free of royalties.

"In the Hagahai case, given that the patent application was being made in the US, it was better, I believe, to have made the Hagahai part of it than to have taken the ethical stance not to be involved and to have allowed all the rights to reside in the US," he says.

Meanwhile, British blood supplies are still not screened for HTLV-I and II, although many countries now do such screening as a routine precaution. The view taken by the National Blood Authority is that the infection is rare among British blood donors and the cost of introducing such tests cannot at present be justified.

Bright birds make healthier mates



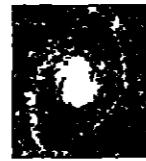
FEMALE great tits prefer their males to be splendidly arrayed, with vivid yellow feathers on their bellies. But what exactly do the females gain from mating only with the brightest of their suitors?

Various theories have been put forward. Maybe bright plumage is a sign of inner vigour, so ensuring the females a healthy brood. Or perhaps better-looking males do more of the work in looking after the offspring.

Two zoologists from the University of Uppsala have recently published in *Functional Ecology* the results of a study of 80 great tits on the island of Gotland in south-east Sweden. They estimated the brightness of the plumage in each case, and measured the condition of each bird's immune system by counting the different types of white blood cell.

They found that the brighter the bird, the better equipped the immune system to fight parasites. So females which mate with bright birds are choosing the healthiest.

Galaxies cause Hubble trouble



THE remarkable picture taken by the Hubble space telescope, showing the faintest and most remote galaxies ever seen, has now been analysed by a team of astronomers from Cambridge, Australia and Canada. They used a computerised technique to classify the images of about 300 galaxies comparing them with those nearby. They found that the remote galaxies do not fit the classification originally drawn up by Edwin Hubble himself in the 1920s.

"Whatever way we looked at it, we found that at least 30 to 40 per cent of the faint galaxies appear extremely unusual and distorted compared to only a few per cent in the local universe," says Dr Roberto Abraham of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge. "The differences are dramatic."

To accommodate these misfits, it looks as if a whole new classification system will have to be drawn up. So Hubble's scheme has survived for 70 years only to be overthrown by a telescope named after him.



Aids is believed to have reached man from primates, so it is ironic that blood from a baboon has been transfused to try to help an Aids victim

Can animals save us?

After an Aids patient received a transfusion from a baboon, the race is on to produce more spare parts from animals. But is it right? Nigel Hawkes reports

This week the Nuffield Council on Bioethics will publish a major report on xenotransplantation, to be followed later in the year by similar ruminations from a government-appointed committee.

The interest is timely, because the whole project poses huge practical, clinical and ethical difficulties. Some opponents argue that animals are not ours to cut open and use for spare parts, while others see the principal danger as the spread of viruses derived from the animal donors.

Already one member of the US Food and Drug Administration panel that gave clearance for the baboon blood transfusion has implied that the panel was swayed by emotional pleas from the family of the intended recipient, the Aids activist Jeff Getty.

"Knowing that one and only one procedure was being voted upon, this transplant was approved," says Dr Jonathan Allan of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas, writing in *Nature Medicine*. "Unfortunately, having opened the door, it will be difficult to close it again."

The FDA will soon get a chance to see if he is right, because the surgeon responsible for the baboon transfusion, Suzanne Ildstad of the University of Pittsburgh, fully intends to try again. She expects to

submit a summary of the data to the FDA soon, and apply within a few months for permission to go on to more patients.

The irony is that many experts believe that Aids originally reached man from monkeys. Dr Allan says that the simian immunodeficiency viruses — the monkey equivalents of HIV — may have been harboured in African primates for thousands of years without causing any disease before venturing to man.

Baboons do not apparently carry HIV, but they do have viruses in persistent and latent forms which may remain with them throughout life.

"Baboons are an infectious disease nightmare," says Dr Allan. Giving their organs to Aids patients whose immune system is already on the ropes provides the perfect opportunity for a new infection to get a foothold. Pigs pose less of a risk but they can still harbour viruses.

Pigs can also be raised in sterile conditions, and special precautions taken to ensure they are safe. Nor is the use of pig materials exactly new: diabetics used pig insulin successfully for decades before a way was found of producing the human version, and pig heart valves have also been implanted successfully into human patients. But neither of these involves living cells.

The pig cells transplanted

into the brain of the Parkinson's disease patient, Tony Johnson, 58, a former highway engineer, came from a pig specially selected because she had tested negative to all known disease-causing viruses.

She was raised in a purpose-built laboratory by handlers wearing disposable surgical gowns, and she breathed only filtered air.

Once adult, she was bred with a similarly clean boar, and on the day of the operation at a Massachusetts medical centre her partially-developed foetuses were removed by Caesarean section, and tiny sections of their brains extracted.

Each fragment of brain contained one and a half million brain cells, of which perhaps 1 to 2 per cent were the sort capable of producing dopamine, the brain chemical lacking in Parkinson's.

Finally, three droplets of fluid were injected into Tony Johnson's brain under local anaesthetic. The immune system, which would normally destroy such cells as foreign, is relatively inactive in the brain.

The hope is that they will survive long enough to provide the dopamine his own brain cells cannot.

The initial effects appear

good — Mr Johnson can walk and talk better than before — but surgeons have warned him that this may wear off. Parkinson's patients often appear better for a while after any brain operation, only to slip back later.

In the case of Jeff Getty, the baboon cells transplanted into his blood supply do not appear to have survived, perhaps because his own immune system had been insufficiently suppressed before the transfusion. Dr Ildstad says that in future trials she will use larger doses of immune-suppressing drugs to "condition" the patient first.

Companies on both sides of the Atlantic are racing to produce pigs which are genetically modified so that their organs are not immediately recognised as foreign and rejected. Considerable progress has been reported with the Cambridge-based company Imutran emerging as a leader in the field.

Dr Allan for the moment remains a lone voice in expressing alarm. He believes that the strictest possible guidelines are needed, limiting donor species to pigs.

Given that the risks from xenotransplantation may be far greater than those from genetic engineering, no less should be accepted for this new and growing enterprise," he says.

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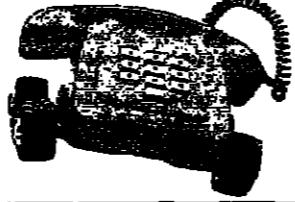
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Penicillin holds key to fresher food

Mould breaking

A SLIDE containing a sample of the original mould that led Alexander Fleming to discover penicillin is expected to fetch more than £10,000 at Sotheby's on Friday. Nearly 70 years after the breakthrough, however, penicillin antibiotics still have to be made from mould grown by natural fermentation.

Chemical synthesis is not commercially viable, even though the chemical structure of penicillin has been determined by X-ray crystallography. According to Professor Jack Baldwin, a chemist at Oxford University, penicillin antibiotics have fascinated synthetic organic chemists for more than 30 years. "There is still no efficient synthesis of the penicillins," he says.

Professor Baldwin has discovered that the natural synthesis includes a reaction step unknown in synthetic chemistry. In this step, an enzyme reacts with the chain-like precursor molecule of the penicillin, catalysing the reaction of a molecule of oxygen with four of the precursor's hydrogen atoms, converting them to water and tying the chain into a figure of eight.

The unusual aspect of this enzyme reaction is that it



Alexander Fleming

depends on two elements of haemoglobin, iron and oxygen," says Professor Baldwin. "There's something very weird about this." In 1995, Oxford chemists crystallised the pure enzyme and determined its structure. It appeared to be the first in a "superfamily" of enzymes likely to have wide applications.

One possibility is that this reaction step might be exploited in syntheses of medical and industrial chemicals.

"It might also enable improvement of the biological routes to penicillins. "Now we are seeing insights into the structure, I hope it will be possible to modify this protein by engineering," says Professor Baldwin.

The discovery of this unique catalytic event has wider implications. "There's almost certainly a superfamily of enzymes that use iron and oxygen to do interesting chemistry," Professor Baldwin speculates. The family would include enzymes that cause fruit to ripen and leaves to fall. Greater understanding of how they work might allow us to alter the rate of ripening for fresher food.

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HUGH ALDERSEY-WILLIAMS

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We are all losers in the sex war

For our mothers and fathers, the gender roles used to be simple — men earned the bread and women baked it. But the search for sexual parity has reduced society to a state of hopeless confusion, says Tony Parsons

Once there was a time when men and women knew exactly what was expected of them. Men made money. Women made homes. Father brought home the bacon and mother made bacon sandwiches.

But what does it mean to be a man today? As sperm-counts plummet across the Western world, the modern male is torn between acting like an old-fashioned guy or a female impersonator.

There is now a vast range of cosmetics for men. There are magazines and television programmes devoted solely to men's health. And throughout the Nineties we have grown accustomed to the crumpled faces of men crying in public — not just showbiz types like Tom Hanks and Chris Evans, but also hairy-armed sporting heroes like Paul Gascoigne and Andre Agassi. Has something softened inside the hearts of men? Is the modern male as in touch with his emotions and as obsessed with his facial pores as any woman?

The lads who read the phenomenally successful *Loaded* magazine would demur. In the pages of *Loaded*, easily the most successful magazine for men in Britain, they celebrate traditional manly tastes — football, beer, birds and crisps. In that order. They do not worry about male health at *Loaded*. The only lumps they are interested in examining belong to the likes of Pamela Anderson.

The choice facing men today is between simpering cissy and unreconstructed lout. No choice at all. But confusion among women runs just as deep. Women have been told for so long that they are morally obliged to have both a career and a family that anything less seems like settling for failure.

The career woman who chooses not to have children is made to feel unfulfilled. Yet the woman who decides to devote herself to her family is made to feel second-rate. The millions of women who try to balance both worlds are made to feel guilty.

The response among younger women to this dilemma — at least in the feverish imagination of the media — has

been an abjuration of femininity. The *New Lass* — defined in late night programmes such as *The Girls Show* — drinks, swears and bays for sexual satisfaction just like any man. But if women are free only to behave as badly as men, then it is a curiously tawdry sort of freedom.

I blame the search for parity between the sexes. We have striven so hard for equal pay, equal rights and equal orgasms that we have forgotten that there are other things in life apart from equality. We have forgotten that men and women are equal but different.

Thirty years ago the gender roles were very rigorously defined. In the Fifties and Sixties, every suburban Dad

was good. Men became more involved in parenting and women entered the workplace. But the end of sexual apartheid brought its own problems. The old roles — man as breadwinner, woman as bread baker — have gone for ever, but they have yet to be truly replaced.

Neither men nor women are free to be what they want to be. Men are still expected to work — how we would jeer at the father who wanted to stay at home with his children and let his wife go out to work. Women are still obliged to give birth. A man without a job — or a woman without children — is still considered a freak. Men and women have all assumed extra responsibilities but the myth of Having It All has become the messy reality of Doing It All.

There is no way back to the ways of our parents. Once men would kill and die for their country. But the manly virtue — physical courage, grace under pressure — are more difficult to justify for the generations who never went to war.

We do not wear our masculinity as well. Being a man is now either a cause for yobbish celebration or shame. Today's men are either pathetic parodies of women or they exist in a state of perpetual adolescence.

Meanwhile, feminism has imposed a terrible orthodoxy on the modern woman. She is expected to have a career as surely as she was once expected to have children.

A woman is not free to devote herself to her children — society and friends conspire to make the best homemaker feel inferior to the worst shorthand typist. And yet the childless career woman is openly despised. Feminism should have increased female options. Instead, it seems to have restricted them. It is curiously twisted sort of liberty.

As for women, economic subservience meant that some were trapped in abusive and unhappy marriages. But these were also the years when women ruled their homes in a way that would be unthinkable today, with mother off at the office and her domestic duties taken over by hired help. In the old days, a woman was the Almighty in an apron — even if she wasn't taken seriously beyond the garden gate.

It had to change — and it did. And many of the changes



Deadlier than the male — but if the strident Nineties woman is free only to behave as badly as men, it is a curiously tawdry freedom

caveman or Delia Smith. Where do we go from here?

A generation of empowered women should not have bred a race of neutered males. But neither should it provoke men into adopting the crassest manifestations of masculinity. And the women who grew up with feminist rhetoric should

realise that they have become slaves to its outmoded dogma.

Men and women should stop trying so hard to resemble each other. We should remember that heterosexuality is a celebration of differences. The way forward is for men and women to realize that we are unfortunately still not that

equal but thankfully very different. You can fake an orgasm. But you can't fake an erection. For that we should be grateful.

● Tony Parsons writes a weekly column for the *Daily Mirror*. Equal But Different is on Channel 4's *Without Walls* tomorrow at 9.30pm.

Today sets my teeth on edge

THE ROW over who should present the *Today* programme on Radio 4 leaves some of us indifferent. Hobday or Humphrys? MacGregor or Ford? Who cares? I stopped listening to *Today* about 20 years ago, and have rarely regretted it. The programme sets the agenda used to set my teeth on edge. Every interview went on far too long, until you were screaming aloud for it to stop, while the presenters, even then, were a bit too fond of themselves.

In general we do not go for the big wave across the room. It has to do with being brought up not to talk with our mouths full, play with our food, or get up from the table without finishing what was put in front of us.

And then you see a married colleague from the office, eating with a man half her age. If it is her son you should surely say hello — but what if it is Fabio the superstar, or Robbie the love rat from *EastEnders*? Can you risk guessing wrong?

The solution can only be to soften the situation with a different social transgression. And this is what wide boys and yuppies have been doing since the technological revolution of the mid-1980s. Next time you turn and tut at some shiny-suited individual answering his mobile at the table, bear in mind that it is probably some stranded diner at a far-away table, calling to see if he should come over and say hello.

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Occasional encounters with *Today* since then haven't changed my mind. John Humphrys clearly has a terminal case of a disease that often afflicts American journalists, the belief that they can plug into the public mood better than the politicians who actually stand for office.

And then there are those angry exchanges with ministers which are all part of a game presenters love to play. Behind the scenes you

NIGEL HAWKES



Negotiating brunch at Christopher's in Covent Garden

Rules for table-hoppers

SIGN OF THE TIMES
by Giles Coren

Los Angeles is a world so designed for dinner-time schmoozing that every possible passing acquaintance must be seated within easy reach of a swift hello. It is a symptom, perhaps, of a society in full grip of the Internet, where at virtual restaurants attended by surfers the world over, butting in is the only way to join the fun.

And yet in Britain, which is catching up in so many ways with advances in American eating culture — think of the *Conan* complexes, Marco Pierre White's Criterion, The Atlantic in Piccadilly — we still have real problems knowing what to do when we see someone we know in a restaurant. According to the receptionist at Quaglino's, who is responsible for the greeting and seating side of things, the

most common request is to be seated apart from particular diners, rather than close by.

But what to do if eyes are caught? It is by the etiquette books in the middle of a mouthful of *bouillabaisse*, do you suddenly leap up at the sight of an old schoolfriend attended by surfers the world over, butting in is the only way to join the fun.

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OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow


■ DANCE

Christopher Gable puts his new version of *Don Quixote* on stage for Northern Ballet Theatre
OPENS: Tonight, Leeds
REVIEW: Wednesday


■ MUSIC

Period-instrument guru Nikolaus Harnoncourt conducts Haydn at the Barbican
CONCERT: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday


■ MUSICAL

The pinball rolls again: curtain up on Pete Townshend's *Tommy* at the Shaftesbury Theatre
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

Starting today, Gallery Week will introduce contemporary art to a new audience. Simon Tait reports



Members of the Scarlet Theatre troupe of performance artists interpret Francis Bacon's *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion* as part of the first Gallery Week

This evening, the stark white Portland stone facade of the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff will become a giant canvas. Paintings of children, 40ft high, will be projected on to it. Meanwhile, 50 works of art inside the museum will be sporting new labels, written by under-11-year-olds as part of a competition, and the *Child's Eye View Guidebook* will have its official launch.

It's all part of Britain's first Gallery Week. Until next Sunday, institutions across the country will be doing their best to open up the too-often world of contemporary art to a new audience.

As many as 200 galleries have dreamt up their own ploys to make people take a closer look at contemporary work. The Whitworth in Manchester is inviting visitors to create a giant jigsaw from the works of Edouardo Paolozzi that the gallery has on show. In Lincoln the Usher is

March of the mods

asking local people to create their own gallery, while in Ipswich Christchurch Mansion has situated pictures from its modern collection in period settings and will be inviting visitors to find them.

Enter the Bruce Castle Museum in Tottenham — through a giant tube of paint — and you will meet artists who will explain how they do what they do. Meanwhile, Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery will host the Contemporary Art Society's exhibition of 100 works it has bought for public collections since 1992. For its part, the Walsall Museum and Art Gallery will be asking visitors to review the contemporary pieces it has on show.

There will be banner-making, portrait photography ses-

sions, workshop tours, the creation on-site of specially commissioned installations, mime artists mingling with crowds at the Tate Gallery, in London, and even a free lecture by the director of the National Gallery, Neil MacGregor, about how to approach pictures for the first time.

Gallery Week is the first large-scale venture by the little-known National Association for Gallery Education. "We're aiming the week principally at children, but also at adults to give them the confidence to approach contemporary art," says Sue Grayson Ford, the association's chairman. "For some reason in this country we have managed to set contemporary art apart in

a way that doesn't happen anywhere else."

The association was set up by the Arts Council as long ago as 1988, but its activities have been modest and largely unseen. Ford became chairman two years ago and immediately began building the network to create Gallery Week. The association (to be known as Engage in future, rather than the clumsy, if more accurate, acronym Nage) is still core-funded by the Arts Council, whose £25,000 grant this year will provide most of its income (the subscriptions of the 300 members are negligible, their support being far more valuable). The unpaid Ford has a part-time staff of two, but intends to supplement Engage's income

and extend activities through sponsorship.

Ford has spent her professional life introducing the public to contemporary art, first as founder-director of the Serpentine Gallery as long ago as 1970, and more recently as director of the Photographers' Gallery. "The role of the Serpentine in the Seventies was rather different from now," she says. "We were less high-profile, we didn't set out to be provocative, but we were concerned to dispel the myths too many people believe about contemporary art, which is very much what we want to do in Gallery Week."

The leaflet produced to promote Gallery Week has already added about 50 new members of Engage, both

institutions and individuals. The event is intended to become an annual one, and the search is already on for £25,000 to finance next year's Gallery Week.

"We don't see why the success of National Music Day, which is relatively new but already a fixture in the arts calendar, can't be repeated for contemporary art," Ford says.

There is a hidden agenda, she says. Too few museum and gallery directors give enough priority to teaching contemporary art, she believes, and gaps have to be filled in the national curriculum where art studies are mandatory only in the early key stages.

"Gallery education officers are often very lonely individuals, working too often in a vacuum," Ford says. "We want to underpin their efforts because education is still not a very respectable area of gallery work. Gallery Week can help to change all that."

The latest instalment of this particular generation game took place at the Wigmore Hall where mezzo-soprano Irina Arkhipova, sometime prima donna of the Bolshoi, Laureate of the Lenin Prize and Hero of the Soviet People, stood side by side with young Natalia Datsko, Ukraine-born soprano, international prize-winner, and a budding new Tosca and Tatiana.

Arkhipova began the evening with Alessandro Stradella's *Pieta, Signore* and Verdi's *Ave Maria*. Both prayers are hushed and sombre. The marble cladding may have worn off Arkhipova's mezzo, but the resiliency granite of training underneath is unscathed.

The same finely chiselled

shaping characterised Dat-

sko's performance of Leonora's *Tacea la notte placida* from *Il trovatore* and *Tue che vanita*, from *Don Carlos*, one note vapour-trailing up to another in perfectly controlled *portamento*.

Tchaikovsky ruled after the interval. Arkhipova took centre stage for a shadowy, retrospective performance of the Countess's scene and aria from *Pique Dame*; Datsko responded with two effortlessly resonant *Romances*.

Sometimes a deep octave apart, sometimes in comradely close harmony, Arkhipova and Datsko gave their all to the salon melodramas of Tchaikovsky's Op 46. Their final duet from *Pique Dame* went down so well that they turned themselves into shepherdesses for the encore, mopping and mowing their way through the opera's little Mazzini pastoral, and then repeating it all over again.

HILARY FINCH

Tosca
Puccini

"What a joy it is to see the return of this riveting production." — Evening Standard

"Stunning theatrical production." — The Independent

March 5 [8] 13 [15] 15
April 3 [13] 18 [20] 25
May 1 [9] at 7.30pm
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CLASSICAL CHOICE

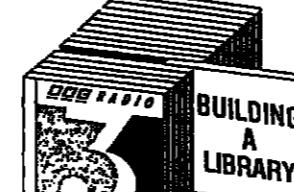
A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BRAMH'S CELLO SONATAS reviewed by Amnette Moreau

For cellists, recording Brahms's two sonatas is a rite of passage. In the present catalogue there are a daunting number available: 28 versions of the E minor; 24 of the later F major. Twenty years separate his composition. Both are for piano and cello, signalling a debt to the classical tradition and problems of balance. The E minor, written in 1865, is generally regarded as the "simple" sonata, because its range is generally lower than the later F major. But balance is very problematic, particularly in the last movement, where the cellist has often to strain against his partner.

Pounding pianists, as well as those lacking in the ability or sensitivity to bring out the range of Brahms's colours abound — including, alas, Rudolph Buchbinder on Janos Stark's latest recording for BMG Classics. But Steven Isserlis and Peter Evans (Hyperion CDA 66159) bring finely nuanced playing.

For a historic recording, Emanuel Feuermann's E minor



sonata in 1934 remains a classic, but go for the reissue on Biddulph (LAB 011); Pearl has transferred the 78s at the wrong pitch. The choice between the two Starker recordings of 1979 and 1992 is "stark". Starker never fails to beguile the ear, so it's down to the difference between pianists and recorded sound. Although the 1979 recording on Erato (4509 96950-2) is hissy, George Slobok is so musical that this is strongly recommended.

However, my overall choice is for the young Norwegian cellist Truls Mork and his marvellous pianist, Juhani Lagerspetz (Virgin Classics 5 45052-2, £13.95). Mork's playing is full and focused, and with an intensity that captures every nuance of Brahms's demanding writing.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barby Road, London W10 6BL or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk
● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): A Stephen Sondheim survey

POP

Meat to the beat

Goldie
Forum, NW5

SEVERAL years after its inception, the dance music known as jungle boasts a substantial underground following. Walsall-born Goldie prefers the tag "drum and bass" for his take on this crossbreed of clubland cultures. With his group Metalheadz, he has taken the genre further into the pop consciousness than most, conquering the festival circuit and achieving a Top Ten album with *Timeless*.

An evening of Metalheadz music means not just their stage show but lengthy record sets in which the highly percussive, unyielding jungle grooves keep the audience on a steady heat. Drum and bass has been portrayed as something robotic, but while the breakneck beat is supplied by a machine — a real drummer would end the night with sprained wrists at best — the group's show is full of human touches. Goldie stands over his keyboard at the back of the set, a film of scattered, abstract images playing behind him while four dancers cower stage left. Various other workers beat toil conscientiously. Their biggest "crossover" single, *Inner City Life*, is the early joker, but in a 20-minute rendition that includes soul and ska phases. Other pieces lack that track's sweetening R&B vocals and are crooked up for more robust palates. The performance may lack humour, but certainly not expression, nor endeavour.

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VIEW FROM THE EAST

Deeper currents could still carry the Tories to victory

The further the vantage point, the clearer the view: or so the travelling politician likes to think. As John Major contemplates the future from the Hong Kong home of his friend Chris Patten, he can see himself in a colony whose economic success vindicates his vision and alongside a man whose moderate Conservative instincts reinforce his own. Away from the daily concerns of Westminster, Mr Major's view from the Pacific Rim is of a prospect which, despite looming squalls, looks slightly brighter.

Seven days ago the air was thick with fatal threats. The Scott report might have provoked a vote of confidence. The defection of Peter Thurnham confirmed the impression that Tory MPs were preparing for defeat rather than a fight. The Prime Minister's single proudest act of statesmanship, the Ulster peace process, was in grave peril.

A week later those concerns have somewhat abated. Victory, however slim, last Monday took the sting out of Scott. The debate marked a little more unravelling of the administration's authority but it could have been so much worse. Mr Thurnham's defection became increasingly seen as a matter of pride rather than principle. As for Ulster, there will be difficult days ahead: but last week Mr Major gave a good impression of a man driving events.

The Prime Minister may well reflect on hopeful signs from the East itself this weekend. In Australia a Socialist party committed to constitutional reform lost to a conservative coalition led unassumingly but prepared to tackle public spending and resist organised labour. From Hong Kong — still thriving under low taxes and light regulation despite the communist threat ahead — Britain looks less like the decaying Ruritanian described by Labour's literary fantasists and more like a modern State equipped to compete economically with global challenges. Unsentimental investors in Pacific boardrooms make Britain their location of choice. The supply-side reforms that the Tories introduced in the Eighties attracted, and still attract, foreign industry. Mr Major is consolidating that advantage.

Success with the economy does not win elections on its own, but it does make possible

the Tories' best potential electoral message: "Don't Let Labour Ruin It". Another interest rate cut may come soon and real disposable incomes are on an upward curve. Voters who enjoy increasing prosperity become less susceptible to health and unemployment fears. As economic statistics improve, so Labour's hold on voters' affections should become less firm. The salience of reasons for discontent — among backbenchers, financial backers and voters — will diminish.

These deeper currents will not, however, carry the Tories smoothly forward. Labour is prepared for them and is showing no complacency. Defeats in the South-East Staffordshire by-election and May's local elections will intensify the counter-pressure on morale. The Tory Left maintains a porous border towards Labour and the Liberal Democrats. Relations with the Unionists who can and want to sustain Mr Major through to next year are strained. Imminent examination of Westminster Council's record will give new impetus to the "sleaze" allegations that are at the heart of the electorate's tiredness with Tory rule.

Yet none of these difficulties individually strikes at the surest Tory strut, identified in 1992 by Mr Patten when he was chairman of the Tory party. Elections, he argued, are won only by opposition parties who are seen to have a set of ideas appropriate to the new challenges of the age. In 1945 and 1979 the tide of ideas ran overwhelmingly in the Opposition's favour. In 1996 the force and direction of the tide is less clear.

The Hong Kong Governor, examining the outlines of the Blair revolution from his own distant retreat, will find little in the ideology more modern than ideas he was himself abandoning as a "Tory wet" in the early Eighties. Lack of coherence in the Commons, lack of will in the Cabinet, lack of trust in the country: all these have been hallmarks of the Major Government and could still bring it to bitter defeat. But if the Conservatives keep faith with the instincts that saw them win in the past and the ideas that will prepare Britain for the free-market future, then victory is still possible. Mr Patten may even find that he can replace one troubled official residence with another.

HOWARD'S TURN

Australia's new leader has a mandate: he should use it

Few people in Britain will weep at the defeat of Paul Keating, the former Australian Prime Minister whose abrasive manner and determination to turn Australia into a republic made him an object of suspicion here. Nor, we suspect, would Mr Keating want them to. He is a proud man with much to be proud about. But his defeat, when it finally came, was decisive: about a third of his cabinet lost their seats.

The fall of a veteran centre-left leader will have repercussions beyond Australia, not least in Britain. Tony Blair has looked to Mr Keating's remodelling of the Australian Labor Party in reforming his own. Now the two will have more time to talk.

The republican issue played only a small part in the result. John Howard, the leader of the Liberal-National coalition, is a strong monarchist who knows that many in his party support the move for Australia to elect its head of state. With only 10 per cent of those asked in a recent poll wanting the Queen to remain, he has promised to call a convention. This means delaying change until well beyond 2001, the year by which Mr Keating had promised a republic.

Far more important to Australian voters was the economy. Many blamed Mr Keating for not doing enough to bring down unemployment, still stuck at 8 per cent. Other recent indicators, however, are generally good: inflation is low, growth is steady and Mr Howard has room for manoeuvre in tackling the two main challenges of reducing the budget deficit and enacting labour

market reforms. Mr Howard will provoke strong opposition when he attempts to reduce the power of the unions. But most Australians believe that reforms are urgently needed, and that Mr Keating, for all his attempts to make Labor a modern, business-orientated party, was not the man to carry them out.

The widespread feeling that it was time for a change was perhaps the most deadly weapon Mr Howard was able to deploy. Australians have an appetite for knock-about politics but many of them found Mr Keating's parliamentary insults and temper tantrums demeaning. Mr Howard, by comparison, is much less colourful. He has been able to use this "Honest John" image to project a promise of plain dealing and plain sailing. He does not yet convince outsiders that he has the dash and political instincts of Mr Keating; but every new leader needs time to establish himself, and the Liberal Party, which has seen six changes of leadership in ten years, has been a rickety platform on which to build a public following.

Many of Labor's policies — such as Mr Keating's attempt to anchor Australia more firmly in Asia and cement its ties with neighbours in the Far East will continue. The party itself now seems set for a protracted struggle over a new leadership and new identity. Mr Howard, with twice as many MPs as Labor, has an unusual opportunity to put into action policies honed in opposition. He should make the most of it.

FANCY PRICES

The football boom is getting bigger all the time

When Manchester United meet Newcastle United on the field tonight, the combined value of their squads will be around £60 million. On each side, one of the players carries a price tag of £7 million. British football now commands sums unthinkable even five years ago. Inflation may have been tamed in much of the country; on the football field it is a raging tiger.

Football is full of money. Clubs have torn down their terraces and put up bright stadiums. Ticket prices for London clubs have risen to about £25, making an afternoon's football an expensive expedition for a family of supporters. The golden triangle of football, television and sponsorship is rapidly transforming the game into very big business. Manchester United's turnover last year was £44 million, and the club has just signed a kit sponsorship deal with Umbro for £60 million over six years. Indeed individual players in the top teams are now able to command personal sponsorship contracts running into millions.

Television is the goose now laying these golden eggs. With the millions of pounds available from Sky's exclusive live football coverage of the Premiership, its managers have been able to buy talent as never before. A manager determined to improve his team's performance can look for the best players overseas, offer money that ensures a transfer, and thus add a Cantona or Gullit

with all the zip and crowd-pulling power that may be absent in home-grown players.

This money has given clubs unprecedented freedom to improve their game and inspire the next generation. But the windfall has not been evenly distributed among those currently in the business. The rich clubs have grown immensely more powerful, with Liverpool, Manchester United and Newcastle now moving into a super-league, far beyond the capabilities even of their nearest rivals. First division clubs take the bulk of ITV's money, which leaves them poor by comparison. But they are still better off than the second and third division clubs, who are the struggling poor, relying on local pride to fill their stadiums.

The boom is likely to stay strong, however. For the moment, Britain is especially lucky: the growth of world satellite television has added a vast audience, especially in the Far East. British football, though less elegant or classic than Italian, is overwhelmingly the most popular. And the top teams are household names from Bogotá to Bangkok.

Yours sincerely,

ROGER VINCENT,
2 Parkside, West Bagborough,
Taunton, Somerset.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Titles' fight for life as market changes

From Mr Ian P. F. Dewar

Sir, Mark Seddon, Editor of *Tribune* (letter, February 26), seems shocked that his magazine will no longer be sold in W H Smith, where he should have been prepared for this eventually. Publishing is one of the most vigorous UK markets at the moment, publishers' profits are increasing steadily and the number of magazine titles available has increased by a third in the last ten years.

Businesses like W H Smith can no longer display all the titles available, especially as their competitors are no longer just other high-street newsagents, but supermarkets, who already have a 34 per cent share of magazine retail sales.

Any food manufacturer could have warned *Tribune* that their existence would be threatened once the supermarkets started stocking the most popular titles and taking profits from the most easily achieved sales, leaving W H Smith with a less profitable business. With this simply acquired knowledge, *Tribune* could have embarked on an exercise to increase their subscription sales and thus guarantee future circulation before it was too late.

Yours faithfully,

IAN DEWAR,
48 Palace Road,
East Molesey, Surrey.

February 26.

From Mr Roger Melody

Sir, Mark Seddon is wrong to imply that political considerations influence the decisions taken by major retail newsmagazines on which publications they will display. Those decisions are increasingly and, many will feel, quite properly driven by just one consideration: will the publication sell?

However, a publication's freedom of speech is devalued if it is denied access to the means of distribution. We have estimated that W H Smith's and John Menzies' retail outlets account for 60 per cent of the sales of publications such as *Tribune*. In addition the wholesale divisions of those companies control the supply of publications to nearly 70 per cent of independent newsmagazines. Access to distribution channels is effectively in the gift of these two major companies and their decisions can make or break small publications.

When deciding if a publication will have access to these channels the dominant newsmagazines have hitherto exercised even-handed judgment, balancing their own interests against the interests of publishers and the public good. If that is now changing it poses a risk to many small publications. Let us hope that the competition authorities are alert to this danger.

Yours sincerely,

ROGER MELODY
(Publisher),
Circulation Factors,
Highfield House,
30 Highfield Road, Purley, Surrey.

February 26.

From Miss Kate Taylor

Sir, Journals like *Tribune*, which serve only a modest market, are not the only publications to suffer from new purchasing policies at W H Smith. Until now staff at the company's stores have been able to exercise their own judgment in buying books on local history.

We have had a long and happy relationship with the branch in Wakefield, providing scholarly and well-printed books at a 33 per cent discount. Quite recently the store took an initial 300 copies of one of our titles and has reordered regularly since.

Now, however, the company is insisting on 48 per cent discount, 60 days' credit and a sale-or-return agreement. These terms are quite impossible for voluntary bodies like ourselves who publish works of local significance in essentially limited print-runs and work to tiny profit margins.

In places like this, where W H Smith is the only major bookseller and thus an important outlet, it seems likely that works on local history which have hitherto been viable will simply no longer be published.

Yours etc.

KATE TAYLOR
(Managing Editor),
Wakefield Historical Publications,
19 Pinder's Grove,
Wakefield, Yorkshire.

February 28.

Land of promise

From Mr Roger Vincent

Sir, Developments in Albania are indeed welcome (report and leading article, February 23). The normalisation of our representation in Tirana at ambassador level offers an excellent opportunity to build on the historic affinity between the Albanian people and Britain. Albanians have strong memories of visits by literary figures and by the Special Operations Executive in the Second World War.

During the eight months I recently spent working in Albania as an EU monitor it was obvious that this bond is deep-seated and enduring: English has become the strongest foreign language in Tirana University.

Two of the greatest assets of this "land of the eagles" are the magnificent mountains and the people, whose hospitality is second to none.

Yours sincerely,

ROGER VINCENT,
2 Parkside, West Bagborough,
Taunton, Somerset.

Universities in an age of efficiency

From Professor Ian F. Fells, F.Eng

tiny "ivy league" of universities. If Sir Ron Dearing can protect the university system from the maddening vagaries of the marketplace and reinstate the pursuit of excellence he will have done very well.

Yours faithfully,
IAN FELLS,
University of Newcastle,
Department of Chemical and
Process Engineering,
Merz Court,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.
February 27.

From Professor Rosamond McGuinness

Sir, "If excellence [in higher education] is to be entrenched and the nation's resources channelled most effectively" in the important area of quality assurance, as your leading article (February 21) suggests, the gap between design of quality assessment procedures and their implementation by the Higher Education Council must be closed.

There should be consistency and parity from institution to institution, and improvements should be commensurate with expenditure. Only then will any suggestions for higher education reform have credibility with the profession.

Yours sincerely,
ROSAMOND McGuINNESS,
Royal Holloway,
University of London.
Department of Music,
Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX.
February 24.

From Mr Ron Johnston

Sir, I hope Sir Ron Dearing doesn't rely on your Education Correspondent's history of the subject (report, February 20) for his review of higher education. Robbins reported in 1963, when the universities of Essex, Sussex and Lancaster already existed.

Yours etc,
RON JOHNSTON,
123 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
February 21.

Sacrificing it seems a small price to pay for the sake of a much more valuable contribution to the nation's well-being.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. S. HUTTON-WILSON,
Priory Cottage, Church View, Evercreech, Somerset.
March 2.

From Mr C. L. Simpson

Sir, What has happened to politicians who believe what they say, say what they think and then stand by it? The performance of Ronald Davies and Tony Blair leaves me ever more convinced that the British public would vote in droves for any political party which had members who stood or fell by their beliefs and actions.

The cringe-making picture of a Shadow Cabinet Minister withdrawing what were obviously firmly held views when browbeaten by his party leader, does no credit to either of them.

Yours faithfully,
C. L. SIMPSON,
1 Maplewood Gardens,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.
March 2.

From Sir David Steel, MP for Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Marion Shoard (letter, February 21) suggests that I was endeavouring, in my letter of February 15, to pour cold water on consensus in the countryside [see also letters, February 9, 12, 16, 17]. Nothing could have been further from my mind. It is crucial that the countryside gets proper recognition and support from all political parties.

But what we all must appreciate — and this comment applies equally to those who live in the country as well as those who live in our towns — is that the British countryside is just as much a place of industry as any other part of Britain. Country people go about their business in a diligent and sensible manner, often in the face of simple misunderstanding, sometimes

regrettably in the teeth of outright antipathy.

Ms Shoard's example of the existence of a "right to roam" in Sweden and Norway provides a perfect illustration.

In Sweden, for every square kilometre of land there are 19 inhabitants. In Norway just 13. But in the United Kingdom, for every square kilometre there are 239 people: the figure for England alone is 373.

If the British countryside is to remain the thing of beauty which is admired throughout the world, and if it is to continue to provide food for our tables and recreation for millions of our citizens, its delicate equilibrium must be recognised and it must be respected. That is why it must be sensibly managed.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID STEEL
(Executive Chairman),
The Countryside Movement,
11 Tufton Street, SW1.

Voices on 'Today'

From Mr F. Walford Taylor

Sir, Your columnists (February 27-29; March 1; see also letters, February 29, March 2) have suggested, in turn, that Mr Hobday's tenure on the *Today* programme be preserved by disposing of the services of one of the other presenters, namely Humphrys, Naughton, Ford or MacGregor.

May I respectfully propose that in the interest of both economy and listeners' pleasure the services of all of them be dispensed with and that, following the precedent of their predecessor, Mr Jack di Manio, Mr Peter Hobday be appointed sole presenter at an appropriately enhanced salary.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. WALFORD TAYLOR,
Southlands, 29 Compton Way,
Moor Park, Farnham, Surrey.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Politics and pop

From the Director-General of the British Phonographic Industry

Sir, The reason so many politicians attend the Brit Awards is not that they hope to be seen grooving on TV by the nation's youth (leading article, February 21; see also letters, February 24 and 29).

The music industry enjoys a close relationship with politicians from all parties because politicians recognise its economic value. In 1995 the UK music industry was worth £1 billion at home, and earned a further £1.1 billion in exports. It defines an image of Britain abroad that helps to sell other British goods and services.

Politicians may also recognise the cultural value of the music industry, providing as it does the soundtrack to the nation's daily life.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 2: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this afternoon attended the International Rugby Match between Scotland and England at Murrayfield and was received by

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Norman Irons, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).
March 3: The Duke of Edinburgh, President, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, carried out engagements in Paris.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give a reception at Buckingham Palace at 6pm for the winners of 'The Queen's Awards for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement'.

The Princess Royal, as President of The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend a meeting of the committee of trustees at 81 Newgate Street, EC1, at 11am.

Princess Alexandra, as President, will attend a reception given by the Friends of the V&A at the Victoria and Albert Museum at 7.20pm.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11am.
The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30am.

Latest appointments

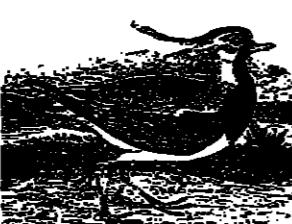
General Sir Edward Burgess has been appointed by the Duke of Edinburgh, Grand President of the British Commonwealth ex-Services League, as Deputy Grand President of the league. He succeeds Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidy, who is retiring after ten years.

Mr Ray McAfee has been appointed to be a Commissioner on the Board of Customs and Excise.

Award

Mr Walter Lessing, founder and chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Club, has been presented with the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, at a ceremony at the German Embassy for his work in promoting closer relations between Britain and Germany.

Nature notes



The lapwing

tiny green shoots; on many of the bushes there are also dark red berries from last year's enormous harvest. Alder trees are covered with catkins, most of them still hard and purple, while others are green and dangling.

Sweet violets are in flower on sheltered banks in the woods: they will be followed at the end of the month by common dog violets and wood dog violets, both of which have unscented flowers.

DJM

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PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

DEATHS

LAUGHTON-SCOTT - On 1st February 1996.

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LEVESON-GOWER - On 25th February, to Edward, his son, a daughter, a son, a daughter, a sister for Hughes.

LEWIS - On 26th February, to Michael, a son, James William Rhys, a brother for Hughes.

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OBITUARIES

Marguerite Duras, French novelist, died in Paris yesterday aged 81. She was born near Saigon on April 4, 1914.

KNOWN pre-eminently as the author of the novel *L'Amant*, which was recently made into a film of that name, Marguerite Duras exemplified a characteristic vein of lush French romanticism. With her death, French literature and French cinema have lost a writer who was adept at turning personal reminiscence into universal truth, especially women's perceptions of things and their intimacy with place. This applies in particular to her riverscapes, from the beggar-woman of the Mekong delta in *Le Vice-Consul*, to Anne Desbordes of the Gironde Estuary in *Moderato Cantabile*, and the *petite fille de Nevers* who meets her German lover on the banks of the Loire in *Hiroshima Mon Amour*.

Duras also made films, developing in another dimension themes already explored in print, and wrote plays to give extra life to characters already projected in her fiction. The imaginary geography which she mapped – of towns and rivers, but also of the human heart – will survive as securely as Hardy's Wessex or Proust's Combray, because it is at once individual and universal, containing places which one person has visited but which we can all recognise as real.

She was an author who could express the banal with resonant simplicity, and although she was never a prominent feminist, she was a writer who linked people and places with a sensitivity which was essentially feminine.

Duras was a pseudonym which she adopted in the late 1940s, from the name of a wine-growing village not far from Bordeaux where her father once owned a house. Her real name was Donnadié. She was the second of two children born to Henri Donnadié and his wife, both school-teachers who had taken up postings in French Indochina.

Marguerite Duras was born at Gi-Dinh near Saigon. The family was never well-off, especially after her father died in 1918. Madame Donnadié continued to work as a teacher, mainly in native schools; she occupied one of the lowest positions in the colonial service hierarchy, and the children, who became assimilated into the local community, spoke Vietnamese fluently. Their mother was bamboozled by the corrupt colonial administration into putting all her savings into the purchase of a worthless plot of land subject to



flooding by the sea, an episode which is commemorated in *Dura's first success*, *Un Barrage contre le Pacifique*, which in 1950 nearly won the Prix Goncourt.

In 1929 Duras moved to Saigon and attended the lycée there. It was during her schooldays that she had a love affair with a rich Chinese youth. Many years later she recalled their passionate relationship in her greatest work, *L'Amant*, which won the Goncourt in 1984 and brought her international acclaim. The affair ended when Marguerite was sent to France to complete her studies in 1931. She took a degree in law and also studied politics. She joined, but was later expelled from, the Communist Party. She worked for various government bodies until she became a full-time writer in the early 1940s. All that had happened to her up to that point had simply been preparation for this calling.

Her first novel, *Les Impudents*, was published during the Occupation in 1943. Soon afterwards her first husband, the writer Robert Antelme,

whom she had married in 1939, was arrested by the Gestapo and deported (they had both been working for the Resistance). She herself came under suspicion, as she recalls in *La Douleur* (first published in 1985). The head of their clandestine network was someone called Morland, later to become much better known under his real name François Mitterrand. It was Mitterrand who at the end of the war found Robert Antelme dying in Dachau and saved him in the nick of time. Duras nursed Antelme back to health, only to leave him and marry a close friend of theirs, Dionys Mascolo, by whom she had a son, Jean, in 1947.

From about 1950 onwards her literary reputation steadily increased. She was linked by commentators with the *nouveau roman* movement launched in the early 1950s by Alain Robbe-Grillet, but although in some respects her writing resembled the experiments of Robbe-Grillet and his friends, she was never a close member of the group. For one thing, they were

mostly her junior in years, for another, they were usually published by the avant-garde press *Éditions de Minuit*, whereas she was mainly published by the more conservative and establishment house of Gallimard.

But above all else, she was more interested in people than they were. Her characteristic manner and subject-matter were reaffirmed in the short novel *Moderato Cantabile* (1958). Beautifully filmed by Peter Brook in 1960, with Jean-Paul Belmondo in the role of Chauvin and Jeanne Moreau as Madame Desbordes, and set in the bleak winter landscape of the Gironde Estuary not very far from Duras, this understated tale of a passionate but unconsummated love affair between a workman and an industrialist's wife paved the way for deeper, more autobiographical explorations of doomed love, culminating in *L'Amant* (1984), but best expressed in the film she wrote for the director Alain Resnais. *Hiroshima Mon Amour*, which came out in 1999.

This film introduced audiences to a French actress who is making a film about the atomic bomb in the city where it was first dropped. Although fairly happily married, she has a brief but intense affair with a Japanese businessman, an episode clearly modelled on Duras' own experience with the young man in Saigon who was her first lover. The brilliance of the story lies in the way in which the tragedy of Hiroshima is linked with the Frenchwoman's personal suffering, which the visit to Japan and the love affair enable her to exorcise. She had as a young woman in occupied Nevers, fallen in love with a German soldier, for which, at the Liberation, she had been punished by having her head shaved. She had been unable to talk of this humiliation to anyone until, in the arms of her Japanese lover, she can cry out, in one of the most cathartic moments on film, *C'est mon premier amour*, *tu sais*. The barely controllable power of sexual love, especially of first love with its purity and its incandescence, runs as the leitmotif through all of Duras' work.

After writing other film scripts, and adapting prose works of hers such as *Le Square* for the stage with considerable success, Marguerite Duras launched herself as a filmmaker in her own right. Her films, it is fair to say, earned her a *succès d'estime* (in 1975, for instance *India Song* won the Grand Prix de l'Académie du Cinéma) rather than box-office triumphs. But there can be no doubt about her interest in, and commitment to, cinema as an art form, even if her finest writing for the screen was filmed by other, more gifted, directors like Resnais and Brok.

She lived partly in Trouville, where she owned a flat overlooking the sea, in a time in the country not far from Paris at Neauphle-le-Château, and the rest of the time in Saint-Germain-des-Prés. All three places are featured in her fictional writings. Her personal life was not especially happy; both her marriages ended in divorce, and for over three decades she was a chronic alcoholic. In 1982 she underwent detoxification from which she almost died, and thereafter never enjoyed good health, suffering particularly from emphysema.

In 1988 she lapsed into a coma from which she was not expected to emerge, and was given up for dead. Remarkably, she recovered to publish a final novel, *La Pluie d'été*, in 1990. Her novel *L'Amant* was made into a film directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud in 1992.

CARDINAL JOHN KROL

Cardinal John Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, 1961-88, died on March 3, aged 85. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 26, 1910.



A FORMER mentor and long-time confidant of Pope John Paul II, John Krol was a leader of the conservative, traditionalist wing of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. His attitude to moral and ethical problems very much reflected the views of his Philadelphia diocese which was, however, to come under increasing pressure from more liberal Catholics in the United States and Latin America in recent years. In these circumstances John Krol remained a vital transatlantic link to the Pope.

The two men knew each other well. Krol, a vocal anti-Communist, had travelled to Poland during the years of the Cold War, where he met and befriended the then Archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyla. He became an important pipeline between the Vatican and church leaders in Poland, and in 1978 was a major influence in the elevation of Wojtyla to the pontiff's throne as John Paul II.

Krol was also highly regarded in the Vatican for his administrative acumen. He kept the finances of the Philadelphia archdiocese sound, at a time when those of the Vatican were in notoriously poor shape in the wake of the collapse of the Italian Banco Ambrosiano, a scandal in which the Vatican bank, the Institute for Religious Works, had been implicated.

When, in 1987, Krol visited Rome to prepare the way for the Pope's planned visit to the US, he was at some pains to point out to Vatican officials that, as one of the two largest contributors (with the West German Catholic Church) to the Vatican's upkeep, the American Church would require "the maximum amount of candour" about the state of Vatican finances.

John Joseph Krol's own roots were Polish. The fourth of eight children of immigrant parents, John and Anna Pietruszka Krol, he began working as a grocery store manager before turning to the priesthood. He taught canon law at St Mary's Seminary, Cleveland, from 1942, and was vice-chancellor of the diocese of Cleveland from 1943 to 1951. From 1953 to 1961, he was Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland. During this period in 1960 he went to Rome to help Pope John XXIII to prepare the ground for Vatican II, the council which introduced sweeping reforms in the Roman Catholic Church. His efforts were rewarded the following year by promotion to Archbishop of Philadelphia.

He established himself as a leader of the American Bishops' Conference, and within the diocese was chiefly known for his successful reorganisation of the parochial school system which had been suffering under the joint burdens of declining enrolment and rising costs.

Krol supported the Pope strongly on such issues as abortion and the erosion of morality, and he was also stoutly anti-Communist. But at the same time he was a severe critic of American policy on the maintenance of a nuclear deterrent. Among the influential Vatican posts Krol held was his membership of the Pontifical Commission for Mass Media Communications, and he was also a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law.

PROFESSOR N. B. MARSHALL

Professor N. B. (Freddy) Marshall, FRS, marine biologist, died on February 13 aged 81. He was born on February 5, 1915.

A WORLD authority on oceanic biology, Freddy Marshall had a particular interest in fishes, especially those of the deep sea. But his prodigious knowledge covered many groups of marine animals, besides fish. Of his six books, at least three stand as classics in their field. He also published some 70 papers, focused mainly on fish systematics.

Norman Bertram Marshall, known by all his friends as Freddy, was educated at the Cambridgeshire High School. In 1933 he won an Exhibition to Downing College, Cambridge, where he took a double first in the Natural Sciences Tripos.

In 1937 Marshall joined Professor (later Sir) Alister Hardy's research team at University College, Hull. He had been recommended as "a man of considerable personality, stockily built, thoroughly cheerful and happy" by his Cambridge professor, J. Stanley Gardner, who had been impressed by Marshall's ability to keep his strength and spirits up on the various long trawler trips which he made – three to Iceland, one to Bear Island and one to the Faeroe Islands. These voyages had considerably broadened his interest in marine animals. While in Hull, Marshall worked on analysing the catches of Hardy's Continuous Plankton Recorder, a device towed behind



commercial vessels to collect and record spatially the distribution of plankton.

During the Second World War Marshall was commissioned in the Army and entered the Operations Research Group. In 1944 he was seconded to special duties in the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey. After collecting 25 noisy husky dogs from Labrador, he spent one year in Grahamland, Antarctica, on Operation Tabarin, working mainly on marine biology and hydrology. In 1943 he was awarded the Polar Medal

(Silver) and in 1966 the Royal Geographical Society named a mountain after him – more durable, he felt, than the mere glaciers which were named after his friends.

Marshall returned to Hull after the war, but not before depositing his Antarctic collections at the British Museum (now The Natural History Museum). The magnificent collection of fishes there so impressed him as a potential resource for pursuing deep-sea interests that he applied for, and got, a post as assistant keeper. His initial studies of

the Lilliputian fishes of the ocean were on buoyancy specialisations, initially in the lantern fishes which climb right up to the surface layers to feed.

He published his first book, *Aspects of Deep Sea Biology*, in 1954. It was a milestone in oceanic biology, providing the most complete account hitherto of life in the largest habitat on earth and, like all Marshall's writing, was stimulating to professional zoologists and layman alike. It was illustrated by his wife, Olga, who was also a collaborator with him on several later books.

By 1962 Marshall had risen to the rank of senior principal scientific officer by special merit, and he served on many national and international marine and Antarctic committees. One such was the Special Committee for Oceanic Research and in 1957 he attended the inaugural meeting held at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), Massachusetts. Many matters considered then are still highly relevant now: the use of the ocean as a receptacle for the waste products of a rapidly growing industrial civilisation; the ocean as a source of protein for a rapidly growing population; and the relationship between the ocean and climate change.

During the following decade, Marshall made several extended visits to the United States, principally to WHOI and to the University of Miami. He completed many valuable papers during this period, notably his benchmark study on the swim-bladder

of deep-sea fishes in relation to their systematics and biology, together with his major review of the systematics and biology of the species-rich family of bottom-dwelling deep-sea fishes, the *Macrouridae* or grenadiers. Marshall also served as chief scientist on teaching cruises of the sailing schooner *Te Vega* from the Hopkins Marine Station, California.

He was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1970 and the following year *Explorations in the Life of Fishes* was published. This treatise on all aspects of fish biology is arguably the best book ever written on the subject.

Yet Marshall's immense enthusiasm for teaching led to his resignation from the museum in 1972 to take up the Chair of Zoology and Comparative Physiology at Queen Mary College, London. In the same year he was awarded the Rosenstiel Gold Medal for distinguished services to marine science by the University of Miami.

Marshall retired in 1977, but continued writing and in 1979 published *Developments in Deep Sea Biology*, a closely referenced, comprehensive extension of *Aspects of Deep Sea Biology*, which remains unchallenged as the definitive work today. At the time of his death he had almost completed a further book on the evolutionary aspects of morphological simplification and its adaptive significance in the deep sea.

He is survived by his wife Olga, and by their three daughters and their son.

Derek Wigram, Headmaster of Monkton Combe School, 1946-68, died on February 6 aged 87. He was born on March 18, 1908.

DURING a 22-year headmastership, Derek Wigram witnessed a period of solid growth for Monkton Combe School, near Bath. In this time it developed from a small, inward-looking Low Church foundation into a school which enjoyed a high reputation and significant links with local science and industry.

Wigram, only the fourth headmaster in the school's history, oversaw an extensive building programme. His educational vision and abilities were considerable, exemplified by his appointment as chairman of the Headmasters' Conference, 1963-64, when private education was very much in the political spotlight. Himself a product of Marlborough College and Peterhouse (where he was a scholar and took a first in Part I of the Classical Tripos) he proved a worthy defender of the private sector.

Derek Roland Wigram started teaching at Whitgift School, Croydon, where he worked as an assistant master and careers master from 1929 to 1936. He then went on to be a housemaster and, again, careers master at Bryanston School, near Blandford in Dorset, where he stayed for ten years. During the war, however, he took an external degree in economics at the London School of Economics. In 1946 Wigram – slightly

DEREK WIGRAM

surprisingly, considering Bryanston's progressive reputation – was appointed Headmaster of Monkton Combe with its self-consciously Biblical Protestant ethos. At least, however, his own staunch Christian faith helped him to feel at home.

He was one of the founding trustees of Lee Abbey, the Evangelical Christian centre and community based in North Devon, and served on its council for many years. He was also an accomplished public speaker and both parents and pupils benefited from the clarity and insight of his sermons and speeches, their seriousness tempered always by light touches of humour.

Wigram's success as a headmaster owed much to his ability to capture the imagination of schoolboys – which he achieved not least by an enthusiasm for fast cars. Many were later to recall hair-raising journeys taken in those less safety-conscious days in vintage automobiles, cars which at different times included an Aston Martin, an Alvis and two Brabham. Wigram was also a keen tennis player, skier and photographer.

He leaves a widow, Catharine, whom he married in 1944 and who cared for him devotedly during his last years when he suffered from Alzheimer's disease. He is also survived by his son and daughter.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev David Jones, Rector, Baschurch and Weston Lullingstone w Hordle (Lichfield); to be Minister Dessevani/Priest-in-charge, St Luke and St James, Jersey (Winchester).

The Rev Jacob Kne, Assistant Curate, Ashby-de-la-Zouche (Leicester); to be Lecturer at St Blolph, Boson and Further Education Chaplain, Boston (Lincoln).

The Rev Ronni Lamont, Assistant Curate, St Peter; to be Vicar, Hemel Hempstead; District of Gadebridge (St Albans).

The Rev Edward Lewis, Chaplain, Walsall Manor Hospital; to be Assistant Rural Dean of Walsall (Lichfield).

The Rev Christopher Liley, Vicar, Norton (St Albans); to be Vicar, Shrewsbury St Chad w St Mary, and Priest-in-charge, Shrewsbury St Alkmund (Lichfield).

The Rev Donald MacGregor, Assistant Curate, St John the

Evangelist, Walmley (Birmingham); to be Assistant Curate, St Paul (St Albans) and St Odake w St Albans (St Albans).

The Rev Carol Munn, Assistant Curate (NSM), Long Bennington; to be Assistant Curate (NSM); Saxonwell group of parishes (Lincoln).

The Rev Malcolm Nicholas, Assistant Curate, Hartley (Winchester); to be Team Vicar, Harrowby and Londonthorpe, Grantham Team Ministry (Lincoln).

The Rev Alexander Nicoll, Vicar, Longnor; to be also Rural Dean of Telford and Telford Gorge (appointed jointly by the Bishops of Lichfield and Hereford).

The Rev David Spicer, Vicar, Christ Church, Stamford; to be Priest-in-charge, New Waltham (Lincoln).

The Rev Michael Trodden, Vicar, Aldborough Hatch (Chelmsford); to the united benefice of Ampthill w Millbrook and Steppingley (St Albans).

The Rev Ann Turner, Vicar General, Ascension Island, diocese St Helena; to be Parish Dean, St Saviour's, Raynes Park (Southwark).

The Rev Jean Staff, Priest-in-charge, St George's church, Gainsborough; to be Priest-in-charge.

The Rev Patricia Quint, Assistant

DEATH OF THE SPEAKER

We announce with the deepest regret the death yesterday of the Speaker of the House of Commons, Captain E. A. FitzRoy. The news of the death of the Speaker quickly reached the House of Commons and brought its sitting to an abrupt and impressive end.

The House was discussing Navy Estimates and was well filled when the Deputy Speaker rose and called: "Order, order," and the Sergeant at Arms, in official dress and with sword at side, walked up the floor and removed the Mace from the table.

The Clerk Assistant, Mr F. W. Metcalfe, conveyed to the House the news of the bereavement which it had suffered. Stepping to the floor off the dais where the clerks, in wig and robe, sit in front of the Speaker's chair, he said: "It is with extreme sorrow I have to inform the House that Mr Speaker died at 6 o'clock this afternoon."

Rising in a flushed assembly, Mr Eden expressed, as Leader of the House, its sense of the "tragic personal blow" which members had suffered in the loss of a great Speaker whom all had come to regard as a personal friend. The House yesterday was content to send, through Mr Eden, a message of deep and heartfelt sympathy to Mrs FitzRoy and her family. The House adjourned. The Lords,

ON THIS DAY

March 4, 1943

NEWS

Israel declares war on bombers

The Middle East peace process hung by a thread after the third Islamic suicide attack within a week claimed at least 19 more lives and Shimon Peres, Israel's embattled Labour Prime Minister, declared "total war" against Hamas, the group which planted a bomb on a crowded rush-hour bus.

Mr Peres is now in serious danger of losing the May 29 election to the right-wing Likud, which is demanding much harsher action against the Palestinians. Page 1, 9

Unionists boycott Ulster talks

Intensive talks aimed at finding a political settlement in Northern Ireland will begin without two of the main parties. The Ulster Unionists and Democratic Unionists insisted that they would not attend talks that were a form of joint authority by London and Dublin over Northern Ireland. Page 1

Royal debate

Cross-party pressure for a national debate on the future of the monarchy grew as Labour MPs voiced fresh criticism of the Prince of Wales and the Royal Family. Page 1

Stalking crime

Stalking would be made a criminal offence which could carry a prison sentence of up to four years under proposals being prepared by Labour. Page 2

Piste peace

French ski instructors, who for years have jealously guarded their exclusive right to teach skiing in their country, have finally accepted an order from the European Union to accommodate foreign rivals. Page 3

Last picture show

The Dome in Worthing, claimed to be Britain's longest-running cinema, is to have its historic fittings stripped out to become a night club. Page 3

Art shares

Virginia Bottomley will today urge companies to give shares instead of cash to arts and heritage institutions. Page 4

Lawless Russia

The growth in violence against Western firms in Russia has led British agents to offer visitors armed guards. "We could have you go around the city in a tank," said one manager. Page 5

'Dalek' keeps passengers on the rails

British Rail's notorious inability to tell customers accurately when its trains will run may be overcome by a voice-activated computer so advanced that it can understand not only Japanese, but even Geordie. Researchers are developing a system that will recognise timetable inquiries on the telephone and respond in a Dalek-like voice. Page 1

Patten's plans

Chris Patten indicated that he would like to return to top-flight politics in Britain after his stint as Governor of Hong Kong ends in June next year. Page 6

Historic recital

A woman whose father died in a Nazi concentration camp is looking for an 1891 painting which shows him as a child playing the piano for the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph. Page 6

Spain turns right

In the most venomously fought Spanish general election since democracy was restored, the conservative Popular Party (PP) was claiming victory over the Socialists. Page 8

Orthodox row

The two most influential leaders in the Orthodox Church are locked in a power struggle that could lead to a schism in the ranks of the 170 million Orthodox faithful. Page 9

Dole in pole position

Robert Dole regained pole position in the race for the Republican presidential nomination, thanks to a decisive victory over Pat Buchanan in the South Carolina primary. Page 10

New Australian dawn

Australians woke up to a new era of conservatism that could see the Liberal Party in power until well into the next century. Page 10



Sir Cliff Richard, who plays the title role in *Heathcliff*, a new musical based on *Wuthering Heights*, with Helen Hobson the actress he has chosen for Cathy. He said yesterday that he did not think he was "too nice and too old" to play Emily Brontë's creation

ENTERTAINMENT

Cost of failure: The DTI is conducting an inquiry into how millions of pounds has been poured into companies in south-west England that have subsequently gone into receivership. Page 40

Defence: A procurement committee is today expected to recommend that Britain joins France and Germany in an armoured vehicle programme, paving the way for Britain to join the nascent European Armaments Agency. Page 40

Interest rates: The City is betting heavily on another quarter-point cut in base rates. Page 40

Nuclear sale: The Government's campaign to secure support for British Energy, the nuclear company that is being privatised, is launched today. Page 15

Classic tale: Lesley Storm's 1949 drama about an unhappy housewife, *Black Chiffon*, is revived with Susan Hampshire. Page 15

Material world: No one has more, or indeed better, ideas than the British. Iain R. Webb on London Fashion Week. Page 11

FASHION

Health choices: The close relationship between humans and animals is about to become closer still. We may soon have to get used to walking around with animal spare parts inside us. Page 12

TECHNOLOGY

Turned off: Nigel Hawkes says don't save Peter Hobday, drop *Today*. Page 13

Health: The close relationship between humans and animals

is about to become closer still. We may soon have to get used to walking around with animal spare parts inside us. Page 12

LAW

One carries a gun, another wears duck shirts: a look at America's stranger judges

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ART AND FILM

From Sickert to

Damien Hirst:

the love affair between

artists and the movies

■ LAW

One carries a gun,

another wears duck

shirts: a look at Ameri-

ca's stranger judges

ARTS

New look: Today sees the launch of Gallery Week. Until next Sunday institutions across the country will be doing their best to open up the closed world of contemporary art to a new audience. Page 14

Musical patronage: Irina Arkhipova, the acclaimed mezzo-soprano and Bolshoi prima donna, introduced her protégé Natalia Datsko at the Wigmore Hall. Page 14

Odd drama: David Lan's new play for the National Theatre, *The Ends of the Earth*, is a curious, chaotic piece which involves conflict in the Balkans and the Balkan conflicts in a geologist's soul. Page 15

Health: David Lan's new play for the National Theatre, *The Ends of the Earth*, is a curious, chaotic piece which involves conflict in the Balkans and the Balkan conflicts in a geologist's soul. Page 15

Football: Manchester United and Newcastle meet tonight in a match that is pivotal to the FA Carling Premiership season. Their player purchases amount to more than £56 million. Page 21

Rugby union: Jason Leonard has been cited for punching Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, during the England victory that ended the Scots' hopes of winning the grand slam. Pages 28, 29

Cricket: England's unhappy experiences in the World Cup continued as the team stumped to another defeat, this time at the hands of Pakistan, the holders. Page 23

Boxing: Nigel Benn, who announced his retirement from the ring after losing his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title to Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, during the England victory that ended the Scots' hopes of winning the grand slam. Pages 28, 29

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Dangerous emotions arise from the resentment of those who believe that they stand outside the windows of the clubhouse of power and cannot quite hear what is being said. Pat Buchanan shares these emotions and plays on them, the hero of the disempowered. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

The central message of the Scott inquiry was not that William Waldegrave or Sir Nicholas Lyell were wicked or liars — they were not — but its revelation of an instinctive preference for secrecy in Whitehall. Page 16

MARGUERITE DURAS

National Theatre; universities; small publications; Labour and

royals; countryside. Page 19

RACING

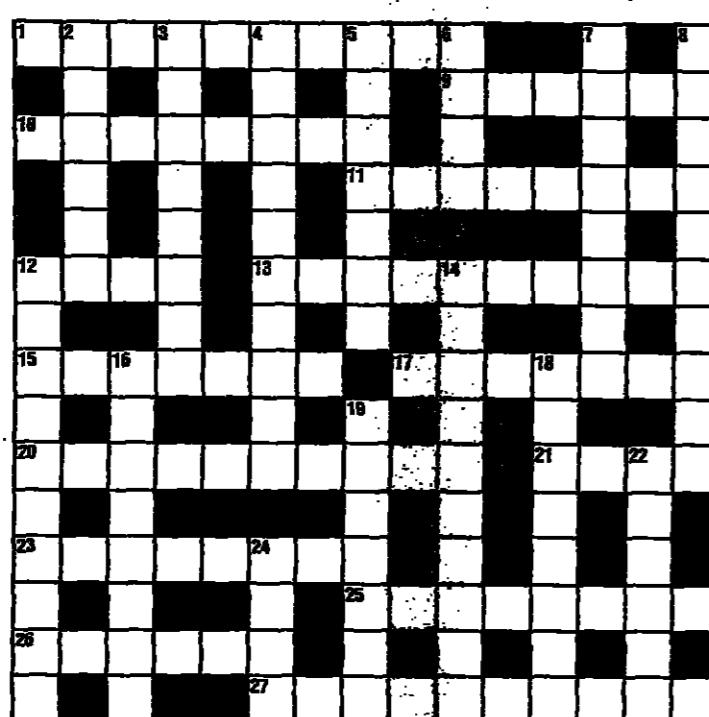
Racing: Injury to Adrian Maguire

has created opportunities for Richard Johnson, a promising young jockey, at the Cheltenham Festival. Page 31

9, 11, 12, 24, 41, 45, Bonus: 6.

— The Sunday Telegraph

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,106



ACROSS

1 Where one may see wild birds, not big game (10).

9 Raised in family of wolves (6).

10 Plant amateur gardener's first to change (8).

11 Criticise article about ancient Roman building (8).

12 Port is a place of safety (4).

13 Check on tax in court (10).

15 About to enter a plea for approval (7).

17 A fruit, not cored, provides sustenance (7).

20 Sign in front of church in West Midlands town (10).

21 Writer showing courage to Americans (4).

23 Extension in credit facility provision (8).

25 Caronist — a man, or it may appear so (8).

ABERLOUR

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,105 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single Highland malt whisky.

26 Summoned the first lady's about to endorse (6).

27 Points dividing a scientist and film director (10).

28 Well wrapped up, so was in no hurry (6).

29 On the verge of alarming changes (8).

30 Dealing with purchases withdrawal (10).

31 A politician retreats outside and gets wet (7).

32 Drink up before noon and dash (4).

33 Left one cat a vital form of access (8).

34 Put back in office, as the controller said (10).

35 A fluffy paper provided on every occasion (2,3,5).

36 To the Continental an allowance shows indulgence (10).

37 Double the food for such a dog (4-4).

38 Obscure agreement included, not properly laid out (8).

39 Barely makes a run (7).

40 Drift off, spilling oil — see it and pass on (6).

41 Part of church where primate has installed saint (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 40

MERCIAL

For the latest regional by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

1 Greater London

2 Kent, Surrey, Sussex

3 London & W. C.

4 Devon & Cornwall

5 W. Gloucester, Avon, Somerset

6 Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon, Wilts

7 Beds, Herts & Essex

8 Northants, Cambs, Huntingdonshire

9 Northants & Northants & Beds

10 N. & S. Yorks & Derbyshire

11 N. & S. Yorks & N. & S. Lancs

12 W. & N. Midlands

13 N. & S. Wales

14 N. & S. Wales & N. & S. Scotl

15 N. & S. Wales & N. & S. Scotl

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